FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-211
Wednesday
1 November 1995

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-211 CONTENTS *1 November 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

DUMA ELECTION ISSUES

Key Developments

- Yabloko Appeals to Supreme Court on TsIK Ruling *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
  - TsIK Secretary Interviewed on Ruling *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Oct]* 1
  - Lukin Calls Rejection 'Undemocratic' *[INTERFAX]* 2
  - Gaydar Criticizes 'Changing' of Rules *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 31 Oct]* 2
  - Democratic Russia Recalls Documents *[INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 3
- Electoral Commission Registers Eight More Blocs *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
- TsIK Rejects Christian-Democratic Union of Russia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Oct]* 3
- 'Bloc of Independents' Denied Registration *[SEGODNYA 28 Oct]* 4
- Supreme Court To Hear Appeals of Five Blocs *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 Oct]* 4
- Interior Ministry Reacts to Criminal Candidate Reports *[INTERFAX]* 4
- Ryzhkov Urges Political Allies To Cooperate *[PRAVDA-5 27 Oct-2 Nov]* 5
- MVD Urges Law-Enforcement Officers To Vote *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 28 Oct]* 6
- Gaydar Urges More Active Campaigning Among Youth *[SEGODNYA 27 Oct]* 6
- Burbulis Heads New 'Men of Action Russian Union' *[Moscow ORT]* 6

Regional Activities

- Poll Shows Volgograd Managers' Support for CPRF *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 31 Oct]* 7

Forecasts & Commentary

- Election Bans Seen as Part of Yeltsin 'Scenario' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 31 Oct]* 7
- Gorbachev: General Lebed 'Has Potential' *[St. Petersburg TV]* 9
- NDR Said 'On a Roll,' Gaining New Allies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Oct]* 9
- Article Examines Potential 'Zones of Influence' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 27 Oct]* 10

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

- ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Nov 12

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- UNSC Urged To Improve Security for Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
- Talbott, Pickering Cited on NATO, CFE Flank Zone *[SEGODNYA 1 Nov]* 13
  - Sememov Hails Grachev-Perry CFE Deal *[INTERFAX]* 13
- Karasin: Russia Favors Modernizing CFE Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 14
- Moscow Seen Excluding Southern Regions From CFE *[AFP]* 14
- PRC Chairman Sends Get-Well Message to Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
  - Shafranik in PRC; Discusses Projects *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Six Agreements Signed With Slovakia *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Chernomyrdin Reiterates Opposition to NATO Expansion *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
- Hungarian Premier on NATO Expansion, Russian Security *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
- Defense Expert Views Caspian Oil, NATO, START II *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Oct]* 16

- Black Sea Fleet Commander: 'Velvet' War Has Been Lost *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 31 Oct]* ... 18
- Finland Supports Russia's Council of Europe Admission *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 20
- Ryurikov Corrects Media Misreading of Summit Results *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Oct]* ... 21
- Chernomyrdin Asks U.S., Pakistan for Hostage Help *[INTERFAX]* ... 21
- 'Rosy Period' of U.S. Economic Aid Reportedly Over *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Oct]* ... 22
- Russian Rocket Engine Completes U.S. Test Program *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Oct]* ... 23
- Forum on European Security Seen as Step Forward *[PRAVDA 1 Nov]* ... 23

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

- Further Reportage, Commentary on Yeltsin's Illness ... 25
  - Vorobyev: Yeltsin's Health Stable *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 25
  - Yeltsin, Ilyushin Hold Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 25
  - Ilyushin on Illness, Aides' Work *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 1 Nov]* ... 25
  - Rybkin: No Need To Transfer Authority *[INTERFAX]* ... 27
  - Text of Interview With Naina Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* ... 27
  - Korzhakov Rumored To Be in Power *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Nov]* ... 29
  - Daily Deplores Lack of Information *[IZVESTIYA 1 Nov]* ... 29
- Yeltsin Signs Laws on Minimum Wage, Pensions *[INTERFAX]* ... 30
- Poll Reflects Dissatisfaction With Yeltsin *[PRAVDA 12 Oct]* ... 30
- Lebed Addresses Yeltsin's Health, NATO, Elections *[Madrid ABC 29 Oct]* ... 30
- Foreign Ministry Denounces Seminar on Kurd Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 32
- Agrarians Criticize State's Support of Agriculture *[INTERFAX]* ... 32

Media Issues

- Article Views 'Intrigue' of Grachev-Gusev Affair *[ZAVTRA Oct]* ... 33

Military & Space Issues

- Daily Reviews Grachev's Visit to U.S. *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Oct]* ... 33
- Poll Reveals Russians' Fear of NATO Expansion *[INTERFAX]* ... 35
- Dorenko Notes Alertness of Military in Moscow *[Moscow NTV]* ... 35
- Semyonov Denies More Military Units Sent to Moscow *[INTERFAX]* ... 36
- Investigation Into Dumping of 'Oka' Missile Urged *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Oct]* ... 36
- Government Increases Investment in Defense Conversion *[Moscow Radio]* ... 36
- Zenit-2 Booster Puts Kosmos Satellite Into Orbit *[INTERFAX]* ... 37
  - Parameters of Kosmos-2322 Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 38

Federal Assembly

- Commission Forecasts 1.9 Percent Inflation in 1996 *[SEGODNYA 31 Oct]* ... 38
- Government, Duma Disagree on Privatization Revenues *[SEGODNYA 31 Oct]* ... 38
- Kokoshin Wants '5 or 6 Percent of GDP' for Defense *[SEGODNYA 28 Oct]* ... 39
- Duma Opposes Plan To Keep Voting Results From Observers *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 28 Oct]* 39

Regional Affairs

- Kulikov: Time To Begin Talks *[Moscow RTV]* ... 40
- Kulikov Cites 'Harsher Measures' *[Moscow RTV]* ... 40
- Zorin on Reasons For Talks Standoff *[INTERFAX]* ... 40
- Council Elects Gantemirov, Arbiyev *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 40
- Zavgayev: Local Elections 'Impossible' *[INTERFAX]* ... 41
- Zavgayev Denies Heading Republic *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 41

Meszaros' Replacement Airs Views *[Radio Rossii]* 41
Spokesman Views OSCE Status *[INTERFAX]* 41
Federal Police To Patrol Groznyy *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Nuclear Backpack Story Seen as 'Bluff' *[ZAVTRA Oct]* 42
Rebels Said Inciting Civilian March *[INTERFAX]* 42
Dudayevites Launch 'Underground TV' *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Moscow Privatization Progress, Problems Aired *[IZVESTIYA 28 Oct]* 43
Ingush President Calls For Restoration of 'Order' *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Tatarstan, Turkey Agree to Parliamentary Contacts *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Orenburg Governor Welcomes Upcoming Election *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 27 Oct]* 44
Altay Farmers 'In No Hurry' To Sell Grain *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 28 Oct]* 45

Economic Issues

Reactions to Business Charter Proposal Noted *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 28 Oct]* 45
Government, Trade Unions Create Wage Task Force *[SEGODNYA 31 Oct]* 45
Government Agrees to 1.7 Percent Inflation in 1996 *[SEGODNYA 28 Oct]* 46
Commission Plugs Loophole for Nonpayment of Taxes *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Oct]* 46
Aircraft Building Industry Faces 'Total Collapse' *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
$150 Million From Japan Will Modernize KAMAZ *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Bank Incentives Will Likely Fund Grain Purchases *[IZVESTIYA 31 Oct]* 48
Harvest Progress, Sharp Drop in Grain Output Noted *[INTERFAX]* 48

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma: Ukraine Should Refrain From Joining CIS Assembly *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Deputies Vote To Accede to Council of Europe Charter *[UNIAR]* 50
NATO Role in Resolving BSF Issue Sought *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 26 Oct]* 50
Russian Consul on Sevastopol Russian Community Issue *[INTERFAX]* 52
Kuchma Favors Russian Partnership in Latin America Market *[UNIAR]* 52
President Kuchma Arrives in Rio de Janeiro *[ITAR-TASS]* 53

National Affairs

Parliament Vetoes Kuchma Decree on Local Power *[Kiev TV]* 53
Shmarov Comments on Scrapping Hardware Under CFE *[UKRINFORM]* 53
Moroz Addresses Miners, Pledges Support *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 27 Oct]* 54
Independent Miners Strike, Reject Political Demands *[UNIAR]* 55

Economic Issues

Kiev To Pay Penalty for Using More Gas Than Agreed *[SEGODNYA 28 Oct]* 56
Supreme Council Approves Resolution on Currency Law *[UNIAN]* 56

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Foreign Minister Assesses Lukashenka's U.S. Visit *[Minsk TV]* 57
Presidential Aide Assesses Future U.S. Investment *[Minsk TV]* 57
Lukashenka, U.S. Official Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawal *[INTERFAX]* 58
Popular Front Appeals to U.S., Russian Leaders *[BELAPAN]* 58

Moldova

Sangheli Interviewed on Government Policy, Confidence *[INTERFAX]* 58

Deputies Adopt Draft Dniester Constitution *[INFOTAG]* 59
Smirnov Rejects Chisinau's Draft Law on Dniester Status *[INFOTAG]* 60

CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyzstan

Premier Delivers Message From Akayev to Jiang Zemin *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
Akayev: Attempts at CIS Integration Remain on Paper *[INTERFAX]* 61
Joint Military Exercise With U.S. Possible *[INTERFAX]* 61

Tajikistan

Ubaydullayev, Opposition Meet With Turkmen Leaders *[INTERFAX]* 62
Khayrulloyev, Iranian Defense Attache Discuss Cooperation *[Tehran IRNA]* 62
Border Guards Report 'Extremely Disquieting' Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 62

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Meets UN Tajikistan Mediator *[Ashgabat Radio]* 62
Delegation Holds Working Consultations in Washington *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 62
Slovak Prime Minister Meciar Arrives *[ITAR-TASS]* 63

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Greets World Bank President *[Tashkent TV]* 63
  Karimov on World Bank Aid for Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 64
President Karimov Receives PRC Delegation *[NARODNOYE SLOVO 31 Oct]* 64

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Health Minister *[Yerevan Radio]* 65
Spokesman Denies Turkish Press Report on PKK Camps *[Yerevan International]* 65

Azerbaijan

Oil Chief Urges Caspian Cooperation With Iran *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Oct]* 65
Experts Claim Baku Subway Deaths Caused by Nerve Gas *[INTERFAX]* 65
  Criminal Expert Discusses Metro Deaths *[TURAN]* 65
  Aliyev Discusses Tragedy With U.S. Envoy *[INTERFAX]* 66
Passengers Evacuated as New Metro Fire Breaks Out *[TURAN]* 67

Georgia

Shevardnadze Says Situation 'Calmed Down' *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 30 Oct]* 67
Shevardnadze Questions Need for Spy Networks *[Tbilisi TV]* 69
Shevardnadze: Georgians Must Be Ready To Fight For Abkhazia *[Moscow RTV]* 70
Abkhaz Leader Ardzinba on Russian Mediatory Role *[Moscow NTV]* 70
Abkhaz Premier on Sukhumi Blockade, Russia Talks *[INTERFAX]* 70
Russians Reportedly Helped Giorgadze To Flee *[SAKINFORM]* 70
Minister on Army Development, Cooperation With Russia *[AKHALI TAOBA 24 Oct]* 71

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Defense Minister Supports Integration With West *[INTERFAX]* 72

President Meri Leaves Mexico for U.S. *[ETA]* 72

Latvia

Oil Search Deal Signed With U.S., Swedish Companies *[Riga Radio]* 72
  Gailis Explains Oil Exploration Agreement *[Riga Radio]* 72
Latvia Formally Applies To Join EU *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 31 Oct]* 73
  EU Accepts Latvian Application *[Riga Radio]* 73
Swedish Defense Minister Arrives To Study Army *[Riga Radio]* 73
Deputies Call For Formation of New Government *[Riga Radio]* 73

Key Developments

Yabloko Appeals to Supreme Court on TsIK Ruling

LD0111114995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — This morning the "Yabloko" election association lodged a complaint to the Supreme Court against the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK], which refused to register this association, "Yabloko" leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy told ITAR-TASS. He hopes the Supreme Court will rule that the Central Electoral Commission's decision not to register "Yabloko" is illegal.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy did not name the date the issue will be considered by the Supreme Court. However, the "Yabloko" faction in the State Duma told ITAR-TASS that this will probably take place early on Friday, 3 November.

TsIK Secretary Interviewed on Ruling

MM0111105695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Central Electoral Commission Secretary Aleksandr Veshnyakov by Viktor Vodolazhskiy; place and date not given: "Let's Get to the Bottom of the Matter. Who Has the Right To Take Offense at Whom?" — first two paragraphs are ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have already mentioned the fact that the current political marathon will not pass without some surprises. So far the greatest scandal has been the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register G. Yavlinskiy's "Yabloko" bloc. The immediate reaction to this decision by well-known politicians is interesting. Y. Gaydar stated there and then that without Yavlinskiy and his bloc and without "Democratic Russia," the elections would become a "farce" and the bloc led by Gaydar would not participate in them. General Lebed, who is rapidly gaining popularity as a politician, expressed an even stronger opinion: He said that if the Central Electoral Commission allows the Beer Lovers' Party to participate in the election and prevents a serious political bloc from doing so, it evidently wants to see the new Duma as a good place to drink and not as a political center. The Communist leader, Zyuganov, did not remain silent either and stated that the refusal to register "Yabloko" might, evidently, become an element in a campaign to postpone the parliamentary elections.

Central Electoral Commission Secretary Aleksandr Veshnyakov talked to our correspondent on the phone about how the sensation came about, what was the real reason for refusing to register this prominent political association, and whether the decision was final.

[Veshnyakov] It is well known that the last day for submitting the necessary documents to the Central Electoral Commission for the registration of the federal list of candidates from blocs, parties, and associations was back on 22 October. After this date, 35 associations still needed to register their lists. We had already registered the Workers' Self-Government Party, the Republican Party of the Russian Federation, the TTT bloc, the "Forward, Russia!" public association, the "Common Cause" voters' movement, and the Beer Lovers' Party.

At the same time the "Independents" bloc, the "Derzhava" movement, and Yavlinskiy's "Yabloko" bloc were turned down.

[Vodolazhskiy] It was the last refusal which created the greatest fuss. People are talking about your prejudice, the machinations of the Central Electoral Commission....

[Veshnyakov] It is not a question of prejudice but of the "Yabloko" leadership's contempt for or ignorance of the Law on Elections.

I will remind you that in order to register a federal list, the Central Electoral Commission should have received not only signed lists but statements from each of the candidates and detailed information about them from the associations and parties no later than 22 October. What is more, the law contains a special provision in accordance with which after the federal list has been submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, a party does not have the right to make changes to the candidates entered in the list or to their order in it. True, it is stipulated that changes are possible only in the event of a candidate's withdrawal — through his death, loss of citizenship, indictment, or by his personal refusal to run on the party's list.

So, when the "Yabloko" list was scrutinized at our first session, we queried 15 candidates. There were no statements from them and there was no information about them. We drew this to the attention of the bloc's representatives. We received assurances that documents for these candidates would be submitted from which it would follow that they were asking to be considered as having been withdrawn in accordance with their own wishes. However, on Sunday "Yabloko" representatives unexpectedly submitted to us six candidates' statements (out of the 15 mentioned) about their agreeing to run in the election for the Yavlinskiy bloc. It emerged that the bloc's leadership had excluded these people from the list without their consent.

However you look at this, the law has been broken. Changes had been made to the candidates in the list after 22 October.

It is in these very circumstances that the law directs us to refuse to register a party's list.

Indeed, "Yabloko" is a well-known and influential political association, but no one is permitted to break the law. What is more, it is of no significance whether it is broken accidentally or on purpose. After all, we are all claiming to be creating a rule-of-law state.

[Vodolazhskiy] But what will happen now that "Yabloko" has appealed against the decision to the Russian Federation Supreme Court?

[Veshnyakov] The electoral bloc is fully within its rights to do so in accordance with the law. If the Russian Federation Supreme Court obliges us to change the decision, we will do so. The same goes for the "Derzhava" movement and "Democratic Russia," which submitted its documents late. There is one law for everybody.

Lukin Calls Rejection 'Undemocratic'

LD3110160195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOVOSIBIRSK, Oct 31 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — If the Central Electoral Commission finally refuses to register the movement Yabloko, one of its leaders Vladimir Lukin, chairman of Duma's International Affairs Committee, intends to urge international bodies not to send their observers to Russia for the December 17 elections.

Lukin, who is in Novosibirsk on a one-day visit, has told INTERFAX that Yabloko for the moment is the most popular alliance in the country, and its removal from the election campaign would, in fact, nullify the future State Duma's activity and would make the elections themselves illegitimate.

Lukin described the Central Electoral Commission's action against Yabloko as illegal and undemocratic.

Gaydar Criticizes 'Changing' of Rules

MK3110150895 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by "Political Desk" including interview with Russia's Democratic Choice leader Yegor Gaydar; place and date not given: "Ryabov Has Eaten Up Yabloko [meaning "apple"] and Derzhava, and Taken a Bite Out of Other Blocs"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] If the Yavlinksiyites are barred from the elections, a large group of "democrats" will emerge which will press for the December vote to be ruled null and void. Then, should anything untoward happen, the results can be "canceled" — by way of responding to the progressive public. The West will support this option, which, however, does not square with the promise by the incumbent administration to ensure stability no matter what. To all appearances, Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov has a bout of malignant nihilism. There was a similar precedent in the past: Not so long ago he befuddled the public by declaring that private TV companies' air time belonged to the state: This was a very gross violation of the Civil Law Code and the Law on the Press. But nothing happened: He corrected himself, and changed his mind. [passage omitted]

Because no one else except Gaydar has hinted at a possible boycott of the elections, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS felt it had a few questions to put to the Russia's Democratic Choice leader. By the moment the issue went to press the movement's Political Council had not yet formulated its position on Yegor Timurovich's ideas.

[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS] Has the Central Electoral Commission found similar violations in the Russia's Democratic Choice documents?

[Gaydar] Not so far, no: The commission will consider Russia's Democratic Choice today (30 October), and I have no way of knowing what it will decide. I have been watching this case very closely and I know that Russia Is Our Home, the Rybkin bloc, and the Beer Lovers' [party] also had similar problems: In other words, this is a fairly common thing. I regard the changing of the rules of the game in the process as rather strange.

[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS] Will nonparticipation by Yabloko and Russia's Democratic Choice invalidate the elections?

[Gaydar] I strongly dislike the idea of thwarting or boycotting the elections; I think that we should do everything possible to make sure that these elections take place. But they should be fair, honest elections.

[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS] Do you think that a Supreme Court decision on the Yabloko case will be extended to other "refuseniks," or will the Central Electoral Commission continue to show an individual approach?

[Gaydar] Frankly speaking, I very much hope for a legally balanced Supreme Court decision. [passage omitted]

Democratic Russia Recalls Documents

LD3110162495 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1550 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Russia-Free Trade Union bloc (leaders Lev Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin, Galina Starovoytova) adopted a decision to recall their documents and signature lists from the Central Electoral Commission and to call on their voters to vote in the 17 December elections for the Yabloko bloc, Galina Starovoytova, said live on the air to Ekho Moskvy radio station.

Let us remind you that on 30 October the Supreme Court obliged the Central Electoral Commission to accept Democratic Russia's documents, which it refused to do earlier.

Electoral Commission Registers Eight More Blocs

LD3110195495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1909 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Eight blocs and parties were registered by the Russian Central Electoral Commission today for the State Duma election.

A go-ahead has been given to In Between Generation, Economic Freedom Party, My Fatherland, Cedar, Power to the People, Duma '96, Christian Democratic Union and Party of Unity and Accord.

This raises to 27 the total of blocs and parties which have been past the first phase of the pre-election campaign, or raising 200,000 signatures of backers.

The electoral commission today denied registration to the Union of Building Caretakers and the Movement of Transport Employees on the grounds that authenticity of their signature lists was "very questionable."

The commission decided to send the lists of the Union of Building Caretakers to the Prosecutor General's Office for a probe.

The signature lists of the transport employees bloc have been found heavily faulty.

This leaves the bloc with 174,000 signatures which passed, of the required 200,000.

TsIK Rejects Christian-Democratic Union of Russia

MM3110153795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 6

[Decree No. 29/226-II of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission "On the Refusal To Certify the Copy of the 'Christian-Democratic Union of Russia' Electoral Association Federal List of Candidate Deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Second Convocation," signed by N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, and A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission in Moscow on 20 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] has received a federal list of candidate deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Second Convocation submitted by the "Christian-Democratic Union of Russia" Electoral Association, a copy of the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice certificate registering this public association's charter, and a record of the decision adopted by the aforementioned electoral association's congress, at which the federal list of candidates was put forward, asking for the TsIK to certify the copy of this list.

Having examined the relevant documents, the Russian Federation TsIK has ascertained that, when establishing the procedure for placing candidates on the federal list, the electoral association violated Article 37 Section 4 of the federal law "On Elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" since it failed to divide up this list into regional groups either wholly or in part. Thus it failed to perform an electoral association's duty, as envisaged by law, of indicating the correspondence between Russian Federation components or groups of components and the regional groups of candidates on the list.

In accordance with Article 37 Section 4 of the federal law "On Elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" the TsIK decrees that:

1. The "Christian-Democratic Union of Russia" Electoral Association shall be denied certification of the copy of the federal list of candidate deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, Second Convocation.

2. This decree is to be published in the journal VESTNIK TSENTRALNOY IZBIRATELNOY KOMISSII ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] Russian Federation TsIK Chairman N.T. Ryabov
Russian Federation TsIK Secretary A.A. Veshnyakov
[Dated] Moscow, 20 October 1995
No. 29/226-II

'Bloc of Independents' Denied Registration

MK3110080195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev: "'Bloc of Independents' Denied Registration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] denied the "Bloc of Independents" the registration of its federal slate. The resolution says that several candidates for State Duma deputy, whose names were on the bloc's list, were not aware of this. Therefore, in the opinion of nine TsIK members, the principle of voluntary participation in the elections has been violated. In addition, it was found that in several regions signatures in support of the regional slate were collected using names of some candidates who turned out to be absent from the slate, having quit for various reasons. The bloc categorically disagrees with the commission's allegations. It has the right to appeal the TsIK decision to the Supreme Court. Registration of the "Derzhava" association's slate and those of several other parties was put off until today's meeting.

Supreme Court To Hear Appeals of Five Blocs

MK3110133795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Five Electoral Associations Go to Court. They Charge Central Electoral Commission With Wrongly Interpreting Election Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Democratic Russia — Free Trade Unions" [DR-SP] electoral bloc has after all lodged a complaint with the Russian Federation Supreme Court against the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] which stopped, at 2400 on 22 October, receiving lists with signatures in support of this bloc's candidates.

Andrey Frolov, chief of the bloc's campaign headquarters, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that the complaint received by the Supreme Court on 25 October contains a reference to Article 42 of the Law on the Election of State Duma Deputies, which specifies the candidate registration procedure.

This article says, in particular, that lists of signatures, data about every candidate on the federal list, and the candidate's consent to run on this list should be submitted "at least 55 days before the elections." All the above documents should be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission simultaneously!

Thus, when it started receiving documents from DR-SP approximately one hour before midnight, the Central Electoral Commission was supposed to immediately accept all the lists with signatures as well. Instead, they took a long time writing some sort of an intermediate permit, without which the guards were not letting the boxes with signatures into the Central Electoral Commission building.

Furthermore, Frolov pointed out, the Central Electoral Commission has not issued to the bloc any official refusal of registration or any official notice saying they did stop receiving documents on that fateful night. This makes it impossible to dispute in court any Central Electoral Commission references to the regulatory documents it was guided by.

The bloc's appeal to the Supreme Court contains a request to make the Central Electoral Commission accept all of the DR-SP signature lists. To do that, it is necessary to suspend processing those documents which are already in the Central Electoral Commission and turn them over to the court.

To confirm the facts contained in the complaint, the bloc is asking to summon to the court witnesses, including Central Electoral Commission chiefs, authorized DR-SP personnel, and Mikhail Arutyunov, deputy chairman of the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president. The reporters who were present in the Central Electoral Commission building might also come up with some spicy details of that night.

The hearing involving the DR-SP complaint has been scheduled for next Monday [30 October]. On the same day, the court will consider complaints from four other electoral associations which could not carry their folders with lists of signatures past the Central Electoral Commission's vigilant security guards either.

Interior Ministry Reacts to Criminal Candidate Reports

LD3110184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — The main information center under the Russian Interior Ministry denied allegations by the Central Electoral Commission about the criminal pasts of two candidates for parliament from the Yabloko party, the Yabloko parliamentary faction's press center told INTERFAX today.

According to the Commission's list, Vladimir Prokhorov was sentenced to 11-years imprisonment for gang rape in 1965. In fact he served in the army, worked as an assistant tram driver, a metal worker amongst other jobs during this period. Prokhorov himself notified Ryabov about this and showed Ryabov his work records.

The Commission alleged that Aleksandr Morozov had earlier received a three-year sentence which was also refuted. Morozov is currently the chief of a research unit in the Obnin Atomic Energy Institute.

The Central Electoral Commission said it had received the list of candidates with criminal records from the Russian Interior Ministry.

Ryzhkov Urges Political Allies To Cooperate

MM3110150295 Moscow PRAVDA-5 in Russian 27 Oct-2 Nov 95 p 2

[Article by Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the "Power to the People!" electoral bloc, under the "Unedited Column" rubric: "People's Power Is Not Dictatorship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the events of 1990-1991, I to a certain degree withdrew from active political life. But now that I have made the decision to return to big-time politics and have become leader of the "Power to the People!" electoral bloc, I have an opportunity to scrutinize the current situation, so to speak, with new eyes.

What is most noticeable is the startling speed with which many politicians and even whole parties are becoming transformed in word from the country's wreckers into, they claim, fervent advocates of a strong state, and from supporters of recklessly copying the West into apparent Russian patriots. The question inevitably arises as to where on earth all these "intelligent people" were five years ago.

The following fact is obvious: Big money is playing a big role in big-time politics — a situation which we have not encountered before. How amazingly quickly several hitherto little-known blocs, which clearly do not have strong structures at grass-roots level, have collected signatures. It is understandable that the Communist Party of the Russian Federation collects signatures quickly when it has a powerful grass-roots network. But when blocs which have only just formed and which nobody really knows also appear out in front, questions inevitably are asked. Prices are openly quoted of 1,000 to 3,000 rubles per signature. It is claimed that even more is paid for signatures in Moscow. And people call this democracy!

Our electoral bloc's conscience is clear. We have not received a kopek's payment for voters' signatures. I must admit that it was not so easy to collect the 200,000 signatures required (in the end we collected more than 400,000). But it did not nevertheless ever enter our thoughts to buy off the voters — people simply showed a preference for our bloc.

One other observation. Those who are currently in power admit that the left-wing and popular patriotic forces may possibly secure victory in the elections and are constructing several lines of "defense." The well-known journalist Maksim Sokolov — who can hardly be suspected of being sympathetic to the left-wing opposition — was completely unequivocal about this in KOMMERSANT. In his words, "it is even possible to make a spotty dog president in the space of six months, or to put it more elegantly this is what is called persuasion." He goes on to say: "Active persuasion, that is the regular publication of popularity polls demonstrating that 'Yabloko's' leader, Yavlinskiy, is the most popular politician, has been replaced by a wall of silence, and the laurels of the leader of the 'third branch of power' have passed to General Lebed."

The right-wing forces, like Gaydar's "Russia's Choice" and A. Yakovlev, who is close to it, are confused and fragmented. The terrible results of their four-year rule, which turned a mighty power into a poverty-stricken beggar, speak for themselves. It is for this reason that the right is at present trying to establish a grip upon the idea of patriotism. For example, Mr. Yeltsin spoke about Yu. Skokov in the most positive terms at a press conference 19 October. It became absolutely clear that Yuriy Skokov is the president's man, which even prior to this many had guessed (or knew). Being an acquaintance or even a friend of B. Yeltsin in no way automatically makes a person bad. But we are talking here about political partnership.

I am often asked the question: Why are you and your bloc not visible? Well, because our bloc very seriously hampers the present Russian rulers in their attempt to hijack and use for their own purposes the strengthening patriotic feelings in society. Our bloc consists of people and organizations with a steadfast popular patriotic orientation and we constitute a serious obstacle to the many people who are in opposition but pretend not to be. One newspaper recently published figures of the weekly use of television air time by electoral associations. The Rybkin bloc was in first place with 22.5 minutes, and the "Power to the People!" bloc came in last in 26th place with 9 seconds. We should be prepared for the fact that public opinion will continue to be actively manipulated.

As far as the economy is concerned, even the heralds of "base-level stabilization" are quite often forced to admit that the situation is disastrous. My government foresaw all the current economic woes back in 1990 and urgently warned society of the danger of demagoguery about an economic miracle, to which the "democrats" treated their compatriots at that time. I am saying this not out of a sense of schadenfreude. But there exist certain rules of economics and social development which cannot be broken without adverse effects. But what was the upshot? The crude attempt at ideological interference in the economy and the replacement of the socialist social system with reimposed capitalism led to the situation in the country becoming disastrous.

What about the future? The scale of the disaster which has been visited upon us is such that we will not be able to extricate ourselves from this situation without the powerful concentration of society's resources. Only the state is capable of pooling all these resources. But not the present authorities, which are sullied by corruption and do not reflect the interests of the overwhelming majority of the population. Hard as it is to believe, there were about 80 peasants and workers in one of the last Czarist state dumas. But in the present State Duma there are only four workers. So, whose interests can it defend? I will take this opportunity to appeal once more to our political allies to cooperate.

We believe that Russia will go into the 21st century as a state based on genuine people's power. It was for this very reason that we gave the bloc such a name. We will fight namely for genuine people's power and the power of the soviets.

MVD Urges Law-Enforcement Officers To Vote

MK3110080295 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Internal Affairs Ministry Infiltrates Its Men Into Electoral Blocs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Internal Affairs Ministry [MVD] leadership has called on officers of internal affairs agencies to take a very active part in the State Duma election campaign.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from reliable sources that all militia units of the Russian capital received a letter signed by a deputy chief of the Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration [GUVD]. Militiamen were asked not to ignore the elections, but to turn out at the electoral wards and to vote without fail. At the same time the letter recommends that they vote for candidates working at law-enforcement agencies, servicemen, and MVD veterans. It is expected that once at the Duma these people will be conducive to the early adoption of anticrime legislation. Another possibility under discussion is to infiltrate law-enforcement officers into various electoral blocs and associations.

In the near future all Moscow militia stations are due to start preparations for the parliamentary elections. Militiamen (from drivers to department chiefs) will have to study carefully the Law on Elections and to carry out explanatory work among the population.

Gaydar Urges More Active Campaigning Among Youth

MK3110081295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev: "Mr. Gaydar Has Noted Success of Democrats in 'Communist Regions'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Yegor Gaydar shared with journalists his impressions of the 1995 election campaign. The chairman of "Russia's Democratic Choice" [DVR] believes that leaders of all democratic blocs must, with no exception, enlarge their electorates from among 18-25 year-old citizens, who in fact ignored the 1993 elections (according to Mr. Gaydar's information, every tenth person among them voted then).

Mr. Gaydar mentioned a "striking fact" established by activists from his bloc: The DVR found it "very easy to collect signatures in regions" perceived to favor communists. In Mordovia, Ulyanovsk, etc., as distinct from in the 1993 elections, the popularity of the Gaydarovites has turned out to be no less than in Leningrad [as published], Arkhangelsk, and Russia as a whole. Touching upon the lists of candidates with criminal backgrounds made public by the TsIK [Central Electoral Commission], Mr. Gaydar said that he liked their "inherent comedy," whereby it followed that Sergey Kovalev was the biggest criminal. Thus, Sergey Adamovich [Kovalev] is on the DVR party slate as before and chairs the Russian Federation president's Commission for Human Rights, also as before.

Refusing to make any forecasts as to the democrats' success or failure in December, Yegor Gaydar, however, drew the attention of media workers to one particular nuance. Before the last election, "Russia's Choice" had been predicted to achieve a sweep, and now "those same reporters are talking of the communists winning." Therefore, Mr. Gaydar does not rule out the possibility that the present "favorites" will obtain the same results in December as "Russia's Choice" obtained two years ago.

Burbulis Heads New 'Men of Action Russian Union'

LD3110200095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast by announcer Aleksandr Panov]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new public body, "Men of Action Russian Union" [Rossiyskiy Soyuz Lyudi Dela], has made itself known today. One of its leaders is the State Duma deputy Gennadiy Burbulis.

[Correspondent Dmitriy Kochetkov] The "Men of Action Union" intends to participate actively in the election campaign but does not intend to put forward its own candidates. The aim of the union is to campaign for the quality of the elections. The leaders of the new body think the election campaign will be notable for the excessive number of participants and the intense campaigning. All this may alienate the most sober-minded voters, which cannot but effect the professionalism of the future parliament.

[Begin Burbulis recording] We will try to participate in the elections as a bridge between the voters and those parties and movements that will be forced to compete desparately with each other. [end recording]

[Kochetkov] The "Men of Action" intend to use radio and TV to raise the level of political and legal knowlege of the voters. They have already worked out a set of broadcasts entitled "The Competent Voter." These broadcasts, according to the plans of their authors, must give information about the election legislation and on how various parties are faring in the election campaign.

[Begin Burbulis recording] We will analyze programs, and we will show what part of them is absolute lies and what part is possible. [end recording]

Regional Activities

Poll Shows Volgograd Managers' Support for CPRF

MM0111102995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (Business Tuesday) in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Yemelyanov: "What About You, Mr. Director?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has emerged from sources in Moscow that in October the Russian Government commissioned the Vox Populi center to conduct a private poll of the attitudes of the industrial elite in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and eight of Russia's most important industrial regions toward the government, the prime minister, the reforms, and the political situation in the country. The results obtained in Volgograd Oblast are indicative: This oblast has aroused great attention in the capital cities after the City Duma elections there.

Leaders of 60 enterprises were questioned, and 90 percent of the respondents were aged over 40. Two-thirds are in charge of nonstate private enterprises. More than 70 percent work in industry and 15 percent in agriculture. One-half are leaders of collectives of 3,000-20,000 people.

It emerges that the "captains of industry" in the Volga region have an extremely low opinion of the successes of the cabinet of ministers in the reform of the economy. Almost one-half gave it a "okay" rating while a further 45 percent are completely dissatisfied with the reformers' work. Virtually the same low rating was given to the activity of the top executive power in the Chechen crisis and in mutual relations with the near neighbors — the traditional economic partners — as well as to the efforts aimed at achieving political stability in the country. In each of the four categories the cabinet of ministers received a "good" or "excellent" rating from no more than one in 10 of respondents. Overall, almost 59 percent expressed a lack of confidence in the cabinet.

Attitudes toward the premier are mixed. Some 40 percent like him as an individual while the same number dislike him or are indifferent to him. Only 5 percent think him a strong politician. Almost 44 percent think him a weak politician but a strong economist.

The rating for "Russia Is Our Home" is low. Only one-tenth of those polled believe that the "government party's" legitimate accession to power will save the country from crisis. On the other hand the Communist Party of the Russian Federation enjoys twice as much confidence in that respect. Some 40 percent of leaders of Volgograd plants and factories plan to vote for the Communists in the forthcoming elections while only 15 percent plan to vote for "Russia Is Our Home". Over one-third of directors are confident that "Russia Is Our Home" will be supported by a minority of workers and one in 10 believe that only a few individuals will support it.

One can understand the alarm of the government, which has kept the results of this poll secret.

Forecasts & Commentary

Election Bans Seen as Part of Yeltsin 'Scenario'

MK3110150095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Vitaliy Tretyakov: "Playing at Give-Away on the Grand Scale. Everybody Thinks He Knows What the President Wants"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is once again the focus of Western press attention (even though over the past few months the interest in it has clearly been on the wane, with foreign correspondents in Moscow receiving fewer and fewer requests for major articles). The first reason is, of course, the recurrence of Boris Yeltsin's illness. The second is the political circumcision of the democratic ("Yabloko") and left ("Derzhava") opposition by the Central Electoral Commission under Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov. Occurring as they do within one week, these two events line up to form an ominous sequence.

Of course, "after" does not mean "because of." My personal opinion is that Russia's customary mess and arbitrariness, not a conspiracy (Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is correct in pointing that out as the main reason for the Central Electoral Commission's decision on "Yabloko") are largely responsible for the developments. But neither our mess nor our arbitrariness grows by itself — they grow in that same domestic soil in which, according to a justified remark by Shakespeare's grave-digger, greatness is akin to madness. For this reason the goings-on of the past few days fully fit in with a certain illogical pattern in Russia's Byzantine politics, on certain current trends in which I had already ruminated last week.

That we know nothing more about the president's illness than general phrases a la glasnost [as published in Latin characters] at the stage of its inception is a bad omen. Either the presidential health has evolved into a matter of turning power over to somebody else, and this is kept secret from us, or the current stand-ins do not know what one is generally supposed to do in such situations in present-day Russia but hesitate to ask their chief, knowing that his explanation would be curter than they would like. For this reason it is safer to do nothing.

It is, of course, a pleasing sight that no one has yet started trying to outjump his own shadow. It would seem to be a sign that everything could still settle. But, on the other hand, such jumps now would be simply dangerous — the very first to try will be the one caught in the net.

Meanwhile, with or without the presidential illness, life goes on, and, it seems to me, it does so according to his scenarios.

In all likelihood, the isolation of "Derzhava" is simply a manifestation of the president's universally known dislike of his former deputy, which he emanates almost tangibly. Stripping the would-be candidate of the opportunity to try his hand at parliamentary elections and, maybe, even at Duma work is a constructive idea, but it was implemented in too ham-handed a fashion.

Regarding "Yabloko," I think that we are in for something even more interesting. Having risen (or even if not yet risen) from his hospital bed, the guarantor of the Constitution and respect for voters' rights, seeing what the bureaucrats have perpetrated during his illness, will resolutely protest. The ban on voting for "Yabloko," a front-runner among the democrats in the electoral race, will be lifted. The president's rating as a defender of democracy will shoot through the roof. True, in that event Yavlinskiy's bloc, too, will do better in the elections, but these are inevitable costs of the process.

It cannot be ruled out, however, that this may be a matter of artificially increasing the future Duma's leftism — which, it seems to me, has been adopted for implementation as the key scenario. Without Yavlinskiy, the most democratic of all the democratic contenders will be the Rybkin bloc (its chances of making it into the Duma would drastically increase because democrats are not going to vote for the beer lovers, after all), but nevertheless a left-wing majority will be secured. Meanwhile, Rutskoy's votes will be split between Skokov-Lebed and Zyuganov — which is not bad for such a scenario. Against the backdrop of so Red a Duma, Boris Yeltsin will look nearly as White as Admiral Kolchak. Quod erat demonstrandum. Because, I repeat, there is mounting evidence of the fact that the West (particularly the United States), having realized (finally, thank goodness) what a mess it had gotten itself into over the USSR's breakup and the introduction of democracy in Russia to mark the quincentennial of the discovery of America, is forced to demand that at least we put a brave face on it. So, come what may, the parliamentary and presidential elections must be held on schedule.

There is yet another theory about the reasons for (temporarily) banning Yavlinskiy as a politician, namely that it is an attempt to test the democratic opposition as to its squabbling habits — and the electoral masses as to their imbecility. If they swallow this, tomorrow they will not get even that much. In that regard, Yegor Gaydar's statement to the effect that "Russia's Democratic Choice" is ready to pull out of the elections because they are turning into a farce can be called the height of political generosity and foresight.

Boris Yeltsin, undoubtedly, even though his current ties with the outside world are not exactly known to us, has not laid down his arms yet. He may be playing his chess game by correspondence, not face to face with his opponents, but he continues doing so on several boards at one time instead. Moreover, no one knows which of the games he will finally deem to be the winning one. For this reason, his partners are increasingly switching to playing give-away so as to have irrefutable evidence to prove that they were the very first to sense the direction of the president's main thrust.

The problem is that there are too many chess players in Moscow and that everybody wants to win by playing into the president's hands. But this is a rotten tactic. The real winner will be the one who invents his own combination, not one who tries to anticipate his moves and guesses wrong every time. What the president needs now are fresh ideas, not routine stop-gap moves suggested by his staff. In those can overtrump five Central Electoral Commissions. As for ideas, however (except for Great Russia, of course), they are in short supply. Before long vacancies are bound to open in the Kremlin's ideas factories.

Gorbachev: General Lebed 'Has Potential'

LD3010164495 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the [former] Soviet Union, wishes the democratic forces success in the forthcoming elections. However, he is sure that the communists have the greatest chance of victory. During a private visit to St. Petersburg today [28 October] he explained his position in more detail in an exclusive interview to Inform TV.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Mikhail Mikhaylov] Today the president of the USSR made a private visit to one of St. Petersburg's elite restaurants where he met with the city's influential entrepreneurs and members of the Rotary Club. The topic of discussion at the lunch remained a secret. The whole visit lasted less than one day. Mikhail Gorbachev's private visits have long become standard practice in the political life of St. Petersburg. Today's visit may be listed among the most inconspicuous. However, it was today that the president of the USSR declared his sympathies in the pre-election game. Mikhail Gorbachev put forward the well-known slogan: Everybody out to vote! He thinks that young people and middle-aged people should give preference to moderate democrats of the former Yabloko style. However, Gorbachev's sympathies lie with other blocs, including with the communists.

[Gorbachev] There are many people with commonsense there. You know, I would say that there was a kind of wing in the Russian Communist Party to which [Gennadiy] Zyuganov himself is close, a social-democratic wing. I support these people.

[Correspondent] The second unofficial favorite in the campaign is the Congress of Russian Communities. Gorbachev divided his sympathies in two.

[Gorbachev] I don't have a high opinion of [Yuriy] Skokov [chairman of national council of Congress of Russian Communities]. I'll be frank because he is Yeltsin's creature and he is sitting on the reserves' bench now. I regret very much that General Lebed has probably got into the wrong company.

[Correspondent] Do you like him?

[Gorbachev] I like him. I like him. But he still has to go through a certain school of life, of politics. But in my view he has potential. He is fundamentally a positive person. But you know, he is like a nugget which still has to be polished to make it shine, for all its facets to begin to sparkle.

[Correspondent] Would you take him into your team?

[Gorbachev] If I say what I think about that then I will answer that question. I won't hurry with a reply now. [passage omitted] [end recording]

NDR Said 'On a Roll,' Gaining New Allies

MM0111092995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Viktor Antonov: "NDR on the Starting Line"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "There must be women in 'Our Home.'" Leonard Vid, chairman of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] Executive Committee, joked to journalists immediately after the end of the conference of NDR activists held in Moscow this weekend. "And, consequently, if our movement stages a successful election campaign and creates its own faction in the new Duma, we will of course seek an alliance with all democratic and constructive parties and associations, including the 'Women of Russia' Association."

But if friendship with "Women of Russia" is still in the future, the conference itself announced the admission of a number of new social organizations to the movement.

It seems as though NDR leaders have every grounds for optimism. Unlike their terrible rival blocs in the election marathon — such as "Yabloko," "Derzhava," and "Democratic Russia," which were crudely kicked away by the Central Electoral Commission when they tried to register (they have all appealed or are planning to appeal to the Russian Federation Supreme Court about this pretty dubious decision on the part of the Central Electoral Commission) — NDR is on a roll. The movement is continuing to confidently gain in popularity and, as we can see, acquire new allies.

"The past six months have confirmed the viability of the movement's basic ideas of relying on the regions, professionalism, and stability," NDR leader Viktor Chernomyrdin stated at the conference. "We can now draw the unambiguous conclusion that strong and effective federal organs in the movement have formed."

Incidentally, the conference assembled in Moscow not only several dozen NDR staffers but also candidate deputies and activists from the regions — well-known and popular people around whom this still quite young sociopolitical movement is rallying.

Incidentally, here are the facts and figures that were voiced here.

The movement now has branches in all Federation components; NDR unites 23 major social movements; NDR organizations have been opened in 83 Russian regions; around 2 million signatures from potential voters have been collected in support of NDR; there are 221 people on the NDR's federal list; just over 60 percent of the initial list of NDR candidates in single-seat districts are left.

That last and not very pleasant figure for the movement elicited the following relatively calm and self-critical comment from Viktor Chernomyrdin: "Objective factors have come into play here — the young nature of our movement, the speed of the nomination procedure, the complex socioeconomic situation in the country which is affecting the mood of our candidates.... There are no grounds for complacency, nor should there be any." Meanwhile, today everyone is talking about the scandal involving the "Yabloko" bloc.

Article Examines Potential 'Zones of Influence'

MM3110143995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Oct 95 pp 1,2

[Article by Lyubov Tsukanova; footnote states that "Materials from the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions, the Public Opinion Foundation, the Russian Federation President's Analytical Administration, and news agencies were used in the preparation of this article": "Every Political Force Has Its Own Zones of Influence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The period before elections is an irrational time. The airwaves and newspaper pages are full of predictions, forecasts, and presentiments. From time to time events toss up some bait, which then becomes food for new forecasters — both reliable and informed ones and, indeed, amateur commentators of all hues. The last such serious event was the elections to the legislative assembly in Volgograd. As we know, the overwhelming majority of votes there went to the Communists, and this has seriously alarmed the section of society which does not want and is afraid of the restoration of the communist regime in the country.

However, subsequent conclusions to the effect that "since they have won in Volgograd they will win everywhere" are clearly premature and hasty. First of all, if we take a wider look at the Volgograd situation, we can see that at the same time as they elected the deputies, the inhabitants of Volgograd elected as the city's mayor a man who is not of a communist orientation at all. No matter what people may say, in the citizens' awareness "practical power" is not associated with beliefs but with businesslike qualities. People have learned to separate the representative power, which accumulates ideas and moods that are in the air, from the executive, which is assessed not according to the color of its banner, but its ability to cope with concrete tasks. Second, the new legislators themselves have stated that they do not intend to build socialism in an individual oblast: Common sense and experience suggest that in an individual territory, the less party passions are involved in the work and the more closely the legislators work with the administration, the better things work out there.

Finally, extrapolation is never so erroneous as in politics. While the reds, blues, or greens may be stronger in an individual territory, this in no way means that they are equally strong and popular in a neighboring area. Not to mention the question of time: Even population polls taken over a period of one month provide by no means the same results, and our own Russian experience shows that the closer the elections, the less predictable the results.

The Russian political map is extremely heterogeneous. It is known that every political force has its own zones of greatest influence. For the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] they are the Central Chernozem, the Volga-Vyatka and Volga Regions, and Western Siberia. The influence of the Agrarian Party is also considerable in the Volga-Vyatka Region and in Western and Eastern Siberia. "Russia Is Our Home" has good chances in the Urals and in Eastern Siberia. As for the Far East, analysts say, it prefers Svyatoslav Fedorov's Party of Working People's Self-Government and "Women of Russia," and the position of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] is also strong here. The democrats are traditionally more actively supported in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the Northern and Northwestern Regions. The patriots and the supporters of a strong state feel more confident in the North Caucasus and other southern areas. Incidentally, the electoral associations themselves are well aware of the territories where they are most popular, and they channel most of their propaganda efforts there, preferring not to waste effort in mastering the swamps of an alien, unfamiliar, and possibly hostile environment, but to sail freely where there are favorable conditions. Perhaps this is strategically wrong (understanding this, politicians nevertheless try to "embrace" as many regions as possible on their trips), but tactically it is more promising. That is why we can say that one-half of the Duma (the deputies elected from parties and movements) will represent the politically varied map of Russia, whose distribution of colors, incidentally, regardless of the visible preferences, is not entirely clear at the moment. Things are more difficult with the other half, which will be elected in districts with the first-past-the-post system: The choice here is made not so much on the basis of political sympathies as personal sympathies, as experience also shows.

The electoral associations overcame the first hurdle in the pre-election race — the collection of signatures in support of your own association — with different degrees of success: Some stepped over with plenty of room to spare, whereas others just scraped over, feverishly collecting signatures right until the last day. The collection of signatures is the phase in the election campaign that tests first and foremost the contenders' organizational potential and the efficiency of their regional structures. Among the first to gather the signatures were the CPRF, the LDPR, the Agrarian Party, and "Women of Russia" — associations which had already participated in the 1993 elections and have factions in the State Duma and experience of pre-election operations. Also in the first group were four "novices" — the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], "Russia Is Our Home," Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, and "Trade Unions and Industrialists" — associations which have formed recently, but have become structured within a short time because of the popularity of the leaders, not without the influence of powerful information backup on the part of the capital's mass media. There are also a number of blocs which did not get into the "leading eight," but did succeed in handing in the lists of signatures by the deadline and avoided all kinds of pandemonium. These include "Russia's Democratic Choice [DVR] — the United Democrats," "Yabloko," and the "Party of Working People's Self-Government" — also pretty well-known associations, which, according to numerous ratings, have a chance of finding their way into the new State Duma.

Of course, being first in the collection of signatures and registration is no guarantee that the electoral association will overcome the 5-percent barrier at the elections and that its representatives will get into the new Duma. However, let us note that the list of associations which managed to collect the signatures before the others coincides in many respects with the lists put together on the basis of results of opinion polls. In particular, research carried out in September shows that the greatest support was given to eight electoral associations — the CPRF, "Yabloko," the KRO, "Russia Is Our Home," "Women of Russia," the DVR, the LDPR, and the "Party of Working People's Self-Government." Over a period of a month the ratings and places on the list changed, but the list itself stayed the same. It is characteristic that practically all the "colors" are represented in it, that is, the entire spectrum of the population's political preferences — parties and movements whose orientation is communist, national-radical, moderate national-strong state, centrist, and democratic (reformist). And by and large, the fight at the December elections will be specifically between these five or six "parties," rather than the 40 electoral associations with common or exotic names. It must be noted that an important role will be played here by a subjective factor — the contenders' ability to coordinate efforts within each "party." At the moment, the pro-communist associations and the moderate supporters of a strong state are more united than the others, and their electorate can be expected to be the least fragmented. There is also an agreement between them on coordination in single-seat districts. It will be most difficult of all for the democratic electorate — if all the associations which have handed in lists of signatures get through to the "final," the reformist-oriented electorate will have to make a choice between about 10 associations, and there is a risk that some of the "democratic" votes will simply be lost, if their chosen representatives do not cross the 5-percent barrier.

Obviously a great deal will be settled in the concluding phase of the election campaign, the campaigning phase. But it is also obvious that the Russian voter has learned something in two years and gained some kind of experience. And today he is paying most attention not to what is said, but to the way what is said correlates to the contenders' actions. And the more competent, proper, and coordinated the actions, the greater the chances a particular political force has of leading its representatives into parliament.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Nov

LD0111080995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 1 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 1 (Itar-Tass) — The condition of President Yeltsin remains in the limelight of the Russian Press. "Izvestiya" said that information provided about the president's health is extremely scarce and even below the minimum needed in any country concerned about the health of its leader. It matters a great deal in such a country as Russia, where even a temporal illness of the "first man" of the country might upset political balance and shake society. The newspaper said that "a severe shortage of information accompanying the hospitalization of president Yeltsin might be the most dangerous symptom of the poor health of the Russian democracy."

"Komsomolskaya Pravda" in an article entitled "The president's heart is beating in atmosphere of secrecy" expressed concern over the scarce and vague information about the president's health leaked into the press. The newspaper refers to a cardiologist of one of the main medical Centres of the country who specified possible developments caused by an attack of ischemia. The medical expert believes that the fact that the doctors have limited the president's contacts even with his closest aides was quite justified since any stress or any other strong emotion might worsen the president's condition.

"Rossiyskiye Vesti" carries an interview with the president's first aide Viktor Ilyushin who focused on the activities of the state apparatus under conditions of the president's illness. "Whenever urgent matters arise, we have an opportunity to get in touch with the president", he said. The absence of the president for five-seven days will not affect the course of the country, moreover that Viktor Chernomyrdin, entrusted by the president to lead the government, has been performing his functions, Ilyushin said.

"When I last visited the president, he looked good, as usual, joked and complained of strict hospital regime," said Chief of the presidential Security Service Aleksandr Korzhakov to the "Argumenty I fakty" weekly. The newspaper carries an commentary entitled "Who will take over from Yeltsin", commenting on a possibility when, in accordance with the Russian Constitution, long disability to perform one's duties on health grounds will raise the problem of the termination of the president's powers ahead of schedule. The newspaper said that because of flaws in the constitution there is no one to establish the seriousness of the president's condition and consequently, to declare early termination of his powers. Therefore, top powers might be performed by the chairman of the Government for an indefinitely long period of time, the newspaper concludes.

"Rossiyskaya Gazeta" carries an article by Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin entitled "Law servicemen stand no fuss", commenting on acute problems of Russia's legislature.

"Izvestiya" writes that after a scandal which broke out following a refusal by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to register the "Yabloko" election bloc, CEC chairman Nikolay Ryabov is "worthy of being included in the number of the first five leaders of the country who have a tangible political weight." The newspaper publishes a kind of a brief biography of Nikolay Ryabov.

" Rossiyskaya Gazeta" comments on the decline in poultry production in the country, saying that domestic poultry is being successfully replaced on the Russian market by U.S.-made chicken legs.

" Moya Gazeta" carries an article by the U.S. ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering, who analyzed processes underway in Russia. The ambassador said that while many people in Moscow openly come out for the activation of the process of reintegration and ensuring Russia's dominant role in the CIS, it has become apparent that Russia has no resources to carry through these plans. At the same time, the ambassador expressed the opinion that if economic policies pursued by the Russian government remain invariable, next year a real economic upheaval will begin.

UNSC Urged To Improve Security for Peacekeepers

LD3110203095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2017 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is moving at the U.N. Security Council a draft resolution on improving the security of the Russian peacekeeping battalion deployed in eastern Serb Krajina.

The first deputy to the Russian permanent envoy to the Security Council, Vasiliy Sidorov, told ITAR-TASS that Russia is in consultations with the five-nation Contact Group on Bosnia about the matter. He said the security issue had become quite urgent now that Croats sound threats to the U.N. peacekeeping personnel in eastern Serb Krajina.

As for Russia's proposal that all sanctions against the former Yugoslavia be lifted at the peace talks starting on November 1 in Dayton, U.S., Sidorov said Russia had submitted a corresponding resolution to the Security Council and is awaiting the response to it.

Talbott, Pickering Cited on NATO, CFE Flank Zone

MK0111135295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Partners" rubric: "The U.S. To Help Russia Legalize Tanks on the Flanks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week the U.S. Department of State continued its program of active measures to convince Russian politicians, journalists, and other representatives of public opinion of NATO's and the United States' good intentions. Yesterday, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott answered live questions from Russian politicians and political scientists from Moscow and from Czech parliamentarians from Prague. The Czechs, of course, demanded an answer to the question of when they will finally be admitted to NATO. But Talbott, taking account of the Russian audience's sentiments, was extremely vague: "We will tell you as soon as it is time. Our approach to NATO's expansion should be realistic, careful, transparent, and gradual."

Members of the Republican Party, who are in opposition to the Clinton Administration, are certain, however, that not later than next July (after the presidential elections in Russia) Clinton will publicly put forward an initiative calling for an immediate start to the procedure of admitting the East European countries to NATO. Evidently foreseeing such a turn of events, Strobe Talbott called on the Russians to: "Listen to us attentively and believe us: The expansion of NATO is not aimed against you. I have never said that NATO's expansion is a reaction to the possible realization of the 'worst-case' scenario in Russia. Last week, the defense secretaries of the United States and the Russian Federation stood shoulder to shoulder when our and your guys were participating in peacekeeping maneuvers."

Furthermore, during these maneuvers the ministers also agreed to reduce the flank zone under the CFE Treaty in such a way that, as a result, Russia will be able to legalize its current army groups there, thus avoiding unnecessary and costly redeployments. But how sincerely and intensively will the Americans be "convincing" their friends and allies to agree to this proposal when Russia presents it to the other 30 signatories to the treaty?

Asked a similar question by your SEGODNYA correspondent, Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Moscow, said: "Washington is making contact with the countries concerned in a very specific and quick fashion and convincing them to agree. Our experts think that a feasible compromise has finally been worked out. Our stance has been constantly coordinated with those of Norway and Turkey. We also hope that Moscow, too, will use its influence in order to push this idea through."

Last week, Vladimir Semenov, commander-in-chief of ground troops, told journalists: "The maneuvers in Kansas are phony. I do not expect anything to come of them." But if the deal on the flank quotas holds, Russian generals may think again.

Sememov Hails Grachev-Perry CFE Deal

LD3110190195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Commander-in-Chief of Russia's land forces Col. Gen. Vladimir Semenov welcomed the agreement on changing the map for flank limitations imposed on Russia by the CFE Treaty. The agreement was reached in Washington by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Earlier, Grachev told INTERFAX that during the talks (October 26 to 29) Perry backed Moscow's initiative to consider the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and the Volgograd region as a rear region, not as Russia's flank, as documented in the CFE Treaty.

Semenov said that the presence of troops in those regions would ensure stability in the North Caucasus.

"I've always opposed the flank limitations imposed on Russia by the CFE Treaty, as they did not meet the interests of Russia's security," he said.

He also pointed out that "the main groupings ensuring Russia's security in the southern direction" were located in the said regions.

In accordance with the quotas reserved for Russia by the CFE Treaty, the Leningrad military district (the flank's northern section) and the North-Caucasian military district (the flank's southern section) shall only have 700 tanks, 580 armored vehicles and 1,280 artillery systems.

Earlier, Russia's Defense Ministry had insisted that Russia have 1,100 tanks, 3,000 armored vehicles and 2,100 artillery systems in the flank region.

Karasin: Russia Favors Modernizing CFE Treaty

LD3110185995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Russia is in favor of modernizing the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe taking into account new realities, Director of the Information and Press Department under Russia's Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin said in an interview with INTERFAX Tuesday.

Russian representatives have raised this problem in the framework of corresponding multilateral forums and during bilateral consultations with participants of the treaty, including the United States, Karasin said.

"Currently the problem of restrictions on flanks foreseen by the Treaty is the sharpest for Russia," Karasin underlined.

"This subject was specially discussed during the recent Russian-American summit in Hyde-Park," he noted. "The parties have made some progress," Karasin said.

The dialogue with American colleagues was continued during Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to the United States.

"We mark expanding mutual understanding in our work aimed at developing joint decisions, however, much work is still to be done," Karasin said. "The dialogue is of a multilateral nature. We plan to actively discuss possible decisions with all participants of this treaty in Vienna in the framework of the joint consultative group."

Moscow Seen Excluding Southern Regions From CFE

AU3110153795 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Vienna, Oct 31 (AFP) — Russia presented amendments to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty here Tuesday [31 October], in a bid to give its defences greater flexibility, diplomatic sources said.

The changes, if accepted, would allow Moscow to exclude four strategic regions — Pskov in the north, and the southern Krasnodar, Stavropol and Volgograd regions — from the terms of the 1990 treaty.

The southern regions are seen as particularly important by Moscow because they border Chechnya and Ingushetia, where thousands of Russian troops are stationed.

Moscow has repeatedly demanded changes to the treaty — negotiated in 1990 when the Soviet Union still existed — saying that it no longer matches reality.

Its terms would force Russia to leave only 700 tanks, 580 armoured vehicles and 1,280 artillery pieces along its entire flank running from St. Petersburg in the north to the Caucasus.

However, it now wants to keep between 1,500 and 2,000 tanks, 4-5,000 armoured vehicles and some 2,500 artillery pieces along the flank, the sources said.

The request was swiftly rejected by Turkey on Tuesday, but the U.S. abstained from any official reaction, the sources said. [passage omitted]

"The Russians have not missed an opportunity to say that the problems have been settled," with an eye to Russian elections on December 17, diplomatic sources said.

However, Russia has dropped a previous demand that the Leningrad military region, around St. Petersburg, also be excluded from the CFE.

"The Russians have presented that as a concession, but it's a false concession, they never intended deploying more troops in Leningrad, they have already enough and don't need them," a diplomatic source said.

Talks continued here Tuesday between the former Warsaw Pact countries and NATO designed to ensure that the CFE comes into force as planned on November 16. [passage omitted]

PRC Chairman Sends Get-Well Message to Yeltsin

LD3110142795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Chairman of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin has sent a message to President Yeltsin, wishing him early recovery, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Fenglin told TASS today.

Li Fenglin attended the ceremony of opening an exhibition of books, given as a present by China to the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences under the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"I was upset to hear about your indisposition. I wish you early recovery," the message of the Chinese leader said.

According to the Chinese ambassador, the message was sent the next day after they learned about Yeltsin being put into hospital. However, he could not get any information about a new date of Yeltsin's visit to China, whose postponement had already been announced both in Moscow and Beijing. "There is hardly anybody today who could give a new date of the visit," the ambassador said.

Nevertheless, the Chinese side continues to get prepared for the visit, he stressed.

"We regard the postponement of the visit as a normal thing," Li Fenglin said. In his opinion, no special problems emerged in this connection, and the exchanges of delegations and exhibitions are going on. He cited as an example a visit to China of Petr Deinekin, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy. According to the Chinese diplomat, the visit was evidence of the continuation of cooperation of the two countries in all spheres, including the military sphere.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry also told TASS that preparations for Yeltsin's visit to China were going on. It is planned to sign a package of documents during the visit, including a declaration on Russian-Chinese relations.

Shafranik in PRC; Discusses Projects

LD0111123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1153 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By Marat Abulkhatin and Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, November 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik discusses a project of large-scale cooperation in the fuel and energy industries here on Wednesday, ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources.

The sides work on financial, technical and economic issues concerning construction of a gas pipeline from Siberia to northern China regions, the economy of which feels the pinch of energy resources.

The Russian delegation arrived in China at the invitation of the Chinese oil and gas company. Shafranik was received by vice-premier Wu Bangguo who is in charge of industry and energy at the cabinet.

The sides pointed to mutual interest in implementing large-scale economic projects, including the construction of the gas pipeline, which will cost several dozen billion dollars.

In the opinion of experts from the two countries, the Russian-Chinese energy project, if it is realised, will dramatically boost the trade and economic exchange between the two nations.

Six Agreements Signed With Slovakia

LD3110163395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1451 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russia and Slovakia today signed a package of six agreements following the talks between the prime ministers of the two countries, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vladimir Meciar.

The package includes an agreement on completing the construction of the first stage of the Mokhovtsy AES in Slovakia, a protocol on defining the treaty-legal basis of relations between the two countries, an intergovernmental agreement on cooperating in civil defense and providing mutual assistance in emergency situations, an agreement on cooperation in protection of the environment, an agreement on bilateral cooperation in the sphere of railroad transportation, and an intergovernmental agreement on air communications.

During their one-on-one talks, which lasted for about an hour, the sides found solutions to many problems in bilateral cooperation and discussed the entire complex of Russian-Slovak relations. For example, the sides achieved understanding on issues of the balance of payments between the two countries, cooperation in the sphere of gas and power engineering, and investments in the Mokhovtsy AES.

Chernomyrdin Reiterates Opposition to NATO Expansion

LD3110175595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — NATO's eastwards expansion is inappropriate, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today emerging from his talks with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar today.

He quoted President Boris Yeltsin's statement to this effect at the Budapest summit, adding that Russia "has every foundation" for opposing an enlarged NATO.

Chernomyrdin said at a brief news conference that Russia cannot forbid anyone to take their own decisions concerning NATO expansion.

"Our proposal is that the decision-making is not hastened," he said.

A new situation has emerged in Europe, with foe-images gone, and possibilities for military partnership are in place, Chernomyrdin continued.

Russia's stance is "to live, sort things out and see the possibilities of new conditions in Europe," he said.

Meciar told the conference that discussing with East European countries their quest for NATO membership, Russia never sounds tutorial or presses with its stance.

He recalled that Slovakia's decision to join NATO had been laid down in documents of its government.

However, possibilities are now available to set up new structures, including partnership of non-NATO states with the Western military alliance, Meciar stressed.

Hungarian Premier on NATO Expansion, Russian Security

LD3110225895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2130 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Viktor Solomin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LONDON, November 1 (ITAR-TASS) — From Hungary's viewpoint, NATO's expansion which is actually taking place should be combined with guarantees to Russia that this step will not challenge its security. Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn said this at the Royal Institute of International Relations in London on Tuesday. He arrived in Britain for a two-day official visit on Tuesday.

Horn expressed complete support for NATO's striving to develop broad partnership with Russia and Ukraine. He noted at the same time that neither Russia nor any other country that is not a NATO member can have the right of veto on NATO's expansion. The decision on NATO membership can be a matter of bilateral agreement between the alliance and states applying for NATO membership, Horn said.

Hungary goes along with NATO's intention to enable countries that were excluded from the first round of NATO expansion to maintain close ties and develop cooperation with the alliance. These countries should be given the assurance that their admission was temporarily put off and that they will become NATO members when the terms advanced by NATO are met.

Defense Expert Views Caspian Oil, NATO, START II

MM3110144695 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Anton Surikov, Russian Defense Studies Institute expert, by Saveliy Khasidov; place and date not given; published under "Russia in Danger" rubric: "NATO Bashes On"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khasidov] Last time we finished our conversation about the oil business and its links with mafia and political structures on an international scale, but does all this directly affect Russia's security?

[Surikov] The link here is most direct. For example, Turkey's political penetration and U.S., British, and German economic and intelligence penetration of Azerbaijan are in full swing. This is the most suitable bridgehead for further Turkish and Western expansion in the direction of Central Asia, the Volga region, and the North Caucasus by exploiting the "Turkic" and "Islamic" factors. Moreover, Turkey is acting as an instrument of U.S. policy.

This policy's main aim is to establish the West's control over the Caspian's energy — primarily oil — resources.

It should be noted that the Caspian Sea oil problem arose immediately after the USSR's disintegration. It was then that the Caspian states' regimes questioned the Soviet-Iranian treaty of 1940 on the Caspian's division and on the spur of the moment started redividing it. Moreover, this is being done illegally: The Caspian is not a sea but a lake. In which case the norms of international maritime law do not apply to it. Any decisions regarding the use of the Caspian's resources must be made on the basis of a consensus of all the CIS' Caspian countries. The Soviet-Iranian treaty of 1940, ratified at the time by the USSR Supreme Soviet, can be abrogated only by a parliamentary vote and not a decision by certain Russian Federation Government representatives. It follows from this that the so-called "contract of the century," concluded by the Azerbaijani Government with an international consortium of 11 oil companies, is illegal from the outset. But the West is openly ignoring this fact.

[Khasidov] In that case is the Russian worker and peasant, whose money has been used to carry out survey and scientific work, entitled to ask: What are the Russian Foreign Ministry and other so-called interested departments doing about it?

[Surikov] The point is that, with the effective consent of a number of high-ranking Russian Government officials and businessmen, the question of the right of ownership over the Caspian shelf's resources is being replaced by a debate about the pipeline routes along which it is proposed to pump "early" oil. But this is far from everything in the policy of unconditional concessions.

Another aspect of the West's Caspian policy is the attempt to cut Russia off from the Transcaucasus by encouraging separatism in the North Caucasus, above all in Chechnya. In particular, there are plans to set up an anti-Russian "Confederation of Mountain Peoples." It is proposed that this formation will have a direct outlet to the Black Sea and Turkey through Abkhaz territory.

[Khasidov] In your view how is this linked to NATO's enlargement to the east? Has a virtual attack on Russia from two directions not begun and how dangerous to our state are all our new partners' actions?

[Surikov] The West's policy regarding NATO's future looks like a direct attempt to isolate Russia and finally squeeze it out of Europe. The NATO bloc's enlargement to the east is obviously inevitable and is being planned in several stages. In the first stage (in two to three years) Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary will be admitted to NATO. In the second stage (roughly by 2000) NATO plans to admit Slovenia, Romania, and Bulgaria as well as Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia if possible. At this stage it is likely that Finland and Austria will join NATO. Finally, in the third stage (approximately in 2005) Ukraine's admission to NATO cannot be ruled out. Russia will not be admitted to NATO in any circumstances.

The FRG is the main initiator of NATO's enlargement to the east (the decision to enlarge NATO was finally made after the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces from the former GDR was completed). Effectively we are dealing with a resumption of German expansion in the east and southeast direction which has twice been curtailed this century and which is on this occasion being achieved for the time being primarily by political and economic methods under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella."

The United States is another initiator of NATO's expansion eastward. In the opinion of a number of influential representatives of the U.S. elite, this line will make it possible to strengthen the United States' leading position on the European continent and thereby to compensate somewhat for America's obvious economic weakness compared with the EU headed by the FRG.

[Khasidov] In that case how exactly should we regard the West's statement that NATO's new structure will be agreed with Russia and that its opinion will not be ignored?

[Surikov] Indeed, currently many Western politicians are assuring us that they are not planning to enlarge NATO with the Baltic region and Ukraine, just as they are not planning to station Western troops and nuclear weapons in East Europe. But there are no grounds for believing this. Only two years ago Russia was assured that NATO had no intention whatever of enlarging itself, even with Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Moreover, in 1991-1992 there was general uncertainty within NATO about this military-political alliance's future. But today proposals to station tactical nuclear weapons in the Czech Republic and Poland are being discussed, operational plans are being drawn up to move NATO mobile forces to the Baltic region in the event of a conflict between it and Russia, and the idea of creating a 60,000-strong "Baltic Corps" from Polish, Danish, and FRG forces is being discussed.

The policy of unilateral Russian disarmament, which has jeopardized strategic security in the world, should be viewed in the same way. As regards strategic nuclear weapons this line is now being implemented in two main areas.

First, because of a lack of funding there is a rapid degradation of the strategic systems currently in service and much research and development in this field has been delayed or stopped completely.

Second, Russia is being saddled with international accords which are clearly disadvantageous to it — the START II Treaty and the 1972 ABM Treaty.

[Khasidov] These problems are now being discussed at State Duma sessions and some sort of decision will evidently be made.

[Surikov] As regards the START II Treaty, there are two groups of arguments against its ratification — military-strategic and political. When talking about the first group of arguments we should distinguish the problem of the inequality between the so-called "rapid replenishment potential" of U.S. and Russian strategic forces (the expected ratio is 5:1 in favor of the United States) and the U.S. attempts to change the provisions of the ABM Treaty on the pretext of the need to create a "tactical ABM system."

It should be stressed that in practice the U.S. delegation's proposals at the Geneva talks, should they be adopted, will legalize the United States' right to create a strategic ABM system on its territory.

At the same time the Republican majority in the U.S. Congress is intensifying pressure on the U.S. Government with the aim of persuading it to take such a step, even without Russia's agreement and despite existing international restrictions.

When considering the second group of arguments it is important to take note of the fact that at the time the START II Treaty was signed in January 1993 there was an illusion in Russia regarding the possibility of friendship and partnership between it and the United States. Because of this the distortions in the treaty in favor of the United States did not seem all that important. But now, with the onset of the "Cold Peace," caused by the NATO bloc's planned enlargement to the east, the START II Treaty's flaws look completely different.

In these conditions the expected substantial inferiority of Russian strategic nuclear forces to U.S. strategic forces in terms of the number of nuclear warheads in service (the expected result of START II's implementation in an abridged form for financial reasons is no more than 500-600 "Topol-M" missiles comprising the Russian Strategic Missile Forces by 2003-2005; there has been absolutely no construction of new nuclear-powered missile-armed submarines since 1990) will obviously be perceived in the West as grounds for considering Russia a second-rate nuclear power which the only remaining nuclear superpower — the United States — will be able to subject to nuclear blackmail with the aim of dictating its will.

Black Sea Fleet Commander: 'Velvet' War Has Been Lost

MM0111110095 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, by Zhanna Kasyanenko; date and place not given: "Hero of the Soviet Union Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin: Russia Has Lost the 'Velvet' War" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is generally civilian politicians who discuss the future of Russia and its current place in geopolitical processes. The military take their own view of this. Their views on Yeltsin's visit to America or on the Russian and U.S. defense ministers' talks regarding our country's taking part in settling the Balkan conflict (a patently euphemistic way of putting it) are never heard.

[Baltin] I would take a broader view than events in the Balkans alone. Because they are just one link in the overall chain.

The geopolitical consequences of the breakup of the Soviet Union have still not been fully studied. However, their negative consequences are already apparent to everyone. By the early seventies a balanced world system had finally taken shape and become firmly established both in the economic and in the political and military spheres. It was this parity that enabled mankind to live for over 40 years without global and with minimal local military conflicts. Throughout this 40-year period world politics was indeed the art of the possible. Was this not the real embodiment of people's long-cherished dream of "world order," stability, a League of Nations? The fact that what appeared to be the unshakable pillars of the world system were suddenly reduced to ashes is due to one thing: The socialist system was exploded from within. Mikhail Gorbachev can quite justifiably be called the father of a range of pretentious demagogic phrases generally known as "new thinking." It was this man, who became the evil genius of the system that begat him, who first laid the cornerstone of the state's foreign policy of "giving up without a fight." It was he who made betrayal the norm for the Russian political establishment, as was manifested most clearly in the Honecker affair. Gorbachev was worshipped abroad, but his was the prestige of a turncoat who sold to strangers the many years' work of millions of people for a song. Neither Hitler, Truman, nor Brzezinski together with all the will in the world could have done what Gorbachev and company did.

The existence and strengthening of NATO, along with the Western European Union, which effectively represent the mailed "fist" of the consolidated West, is a highly important feature of the current international situation, which is having an extremely unfavorable effect on Russia's position.

[Kasyanenko] But after the self-dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, which counterbalanced NATO, it was said at length that this last military bloc was no longer needed, that it should be cut back and transformed into a political association, there was even talk of its being disbanded since it had carried out its mission....

[Baltin] The words have remained just words. Today NATO is not only preserving its former structure but is even strengthening and extending it by drawing new members into its orbit. Various programs like "Partnership for Peace" are acting as a cover for this kind of activity.

In its present form NATO, far from strengthening security in Europe, is increasingly undermining it. The unchecked expansion of its zone of responsibility and the policy of eastward movement are links in the same chain, directed primarily against Russia. Specialists are well aware of the arsenal of NATO strategic concepts, which have been modernized since the Cold War and which include the concept of deterrence, forward defense, the operational-strategic concepts of an air-surface operation, etc. The essentially offensive nature of these concepts was exposed long since, but it is only today that it has been borne out in practice.

Operation Desert Storm and the recent exemplary punishment of the Serbs, notwithstanding the dissimilar reasons for them, nevertheless had much in common. The first and main thing is that under cover of the United Nations (after the existence of a secret treaty between NATO and the United Nations on the former Yugoslavia had been made public, the nature of the collaboration between these organizations should leave no one with any illusions) the NATO bloc took upon itself the duties of "world policeman."

Second. The NATO allies' armed forces have had unprecedented experience of conducting offensive combat operations on foreign territory, and modern methods of warfare were employed against an enemy with a Soviet troop organization using mainly our tactics and weapons.

Third. Psychologically the NATO armies and public have been acclimatized to waging offensive combat operations on foreign territory — by means of wide-ranging propaganda campaigns about "high-precision," "smart," and "humane" weapons, "carpet bombings," "surgical strikes," and "clean," "localized" warfare. The absurdity of this propaganda is obvious to the professionals. In the Persian Gulf, NATO pilots were by no means fighting Saddam Husayn's Army, which never lost its combat potential, but civilians. Incidentally, the civilian casualty figures were not even made public.

The main thing is that NATO's undeclared war against the Serbs means that it has already gained practical experience, schooled the world public, and mentally prepared NATO soldiers for conducting combat operations against Slavs with impunity.

[Kasyanenko] What problems does Russia face today in this connection? What should attention be focused on primarily?

[Baltin] We have lost our former allies and partners. Russia is still being ousted from its age-old geopolitical positions. And this is not merely a question of the countries in the former socialist camp, but also the former Union republics. Ukraine and Moldova are being increasingly drawn into NATO's orbit and Turkey has launched successful activity in the Transcaucasus. There is no point even mentioning the Baltic. The country's spatial removal from Europe has already meant the loss of ports on the Baltic and Black Seas. There is a clearly defined "arc of instability" in southern Russia — passing through the Black Sea, Chechnya, Georgia, and then through Central Asia to the PRC border — and then there is the gradual northward movement of this arc under the banner of Islamic fundamentalism. Things are no better in the Far East. Other NATO members [as published] maintain a constant presence in virtually all regions of the world — we are abandoning our Army's and Navy's familiar forward bases not only in the far abroad, but also in the near abroad. NATO submarines and nuclear delivery vehicles are on constant alert duty and patrol duty right next to our borders — because of our extremely meager funding we cannot even use the equipment we do have, not to mention building new equipment. By conducting joint maneuvers and exercises NATO is opening up new theaters of military operations — in Russia even ordinary reconnaissance has virtually been let slide.

The United States and NATO are spending the kind of money on arming their armies that would be more than enough for vital aid to starving Africa and the retooling of all post-Communist Europe. The aim of their military preparations is clear: to prevent Russia and its allies, should any suddenly appear, from presenting serious competition for the West, which is experiencing increasingly serious problems despite its outward prosperity. The West is, after all, today living largely off satellites and informal colonies whose natural wealth, cheap work force, and markets it is exploiting. It is important for it to prevent the world being divided up again and it is already making vigorous preparations for this possibility.

[Kasyanenko] It seems incredible to many of us today that the West might find an excuse for armed interference in Russia's affairs. Is that so, in your view?

[Baltin] Yes, the foundations for this have already been laid and are still being refined! The West is now deciding how much democracy we are allowed, dictating Russian economic principles, and determining whether "human rights" are being observed in our country. As long as Russia was a strong country, such comments were considered interference in the state's internal affairs. Now we only listen with fascination to the opinions foisted on us and circulate quotations from the foreign "prophets." But the world keeps quiet about the Turkish Government forces' tanks firing on unarmed Kurds, and the passions surrounding Ireland's craving for independence have not yet subsided, but this too is not usually mentioned. The United States has been unable for many a year to handle the regular riots by the black population demanding autonomy. And has anyone talked seriously about the gross human rights violations in Serbian Krajina? Who has counted the defenseless Serbs who have died in the NATO bombings and the amount of housing that has been destroyed? That is where the numerous human rights commissions from the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the European Parliament are needed! But they come to our country to study the situation in Chechnya. The West has one human rights yardstick for us and quite another for itself....

[Kasyanenko] But we must not forget that Russia is a nuclear power and, come what may, the West is forced to take that into account.

[Baltin] Yes, right now that is the only thing that is keeping their voracity in check. But the West is constantly trying to take control of nuclear weapons production, testing, siting, and reduction. It partially succeeded in this endeavor with the help of the government of the former USSR. These attempts have not stopped even now. The ratification of the START-II Treaty serves the same purpose. Russia is being embroiled in various international programs under the auspices of the United Nations, NATO, the OSCE, the IMF, and the Council of Europe. It is being pressured to participate in international agreements that are only partially military in nature, but their aim is, on a plausible-looking pretext, to force elements that the West finds desirable into domestic and foreign policy strategy and effectively pursue the process of destroying Russian statehood. While observing these processes the Russian Foreign Ministry is doggedly continuing its activity within the framework of the "perestroyka" doctrine of "new thinking." And this seems strange at the very least.

Thus, we have every reason to talk of a third world war that broke out, and has almost died out, before our very eyes. It was not a classical but a "velvet" war. For the third time this century the leading world powers have divided up spheres of influence. This war can be deemed to have begun physically with the destruction of the Berlin Wall. There was an offensive but no defense in this war: The enemy had been so demoralized by internal upheavals, which were well organized and very "opportune." So he cannot be called an enemy in the usual sense. The essence of the "velvet" third world war is an information-strategic offensive in which the main role is played by well-honed psychological operations.

The results of this war exceeded all expectations. The first is that NATO's political objectives have been secured: The socialist system with its once powerful economy and military potential has been destroyed. There was a time when the state regimes of countries in the socialist camp ensured their territorial integrity, the stability of a civil society, and the absence of ethnic clashes, let alone conflicts. All this has become a thing of the past as a result of the "democratic" transformations. Moreover, as a result of the effects of the false values and convictions that were introduced into the minds of socialist countries' citizens, the territorial collapse of some of those countries, among them the Soviet Union, was achieved.

The fragments of the collapsed Eastern world de facto received the status of new components of the considerably changed world colonial system. The reshaping of the post-Communist states and the vast majority of the former Soviet republics as dependent, semicolonial entities is now nearing completion.

But the third world war is not yet over. And Russia is by no means the first to have suffered as a result of it. The time will yet come to evaluate its lamentable consequences for the Old World.

The model "Center of force (United States) — NATO — United Nations..." is alive and, as we can see, victorious. The main thing now is to ensure that a world robbed of its equilibrium does not slip from its resting point.

Russia today is not entitled to make mistakes. Society's recognition of its tragic position has coincided with the latest parliamentary elections. It is not only its own future but the future of the world that depends on which political forces play a crucial role in Russia tomorrow.

Finland Supports Russia's Council of Europe Admission

LD3110204995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1812 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Vladimir Mostovets]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HELSINKI, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Finland strongly supports Russia's admission to the Council of Europe (CE) and will facilitate the solution of this problem as soon as possible, Chairman of the Federation Council Committee for International Issues Vladimir Pogoprigora told ITAR-TASS.

Pogoprigora leads a Russian parliamentary delegation which arrived in Helsinki at the invitation of the Finnish National Assembly.

Today, Russian parliamentarians met their Finnish counterparts and members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CE. Pogoprigora is convinced again of Finland's consequent attitude towards Russia's admission to the CE.

At the same time, Pogoprigora said that some European conservative parties intend to prevent from Russia's admission to this international organisation. Representatives of these parties referred to the aggravation of the situation in Chechnya and the deprivation of rights of the Yabloko bloc to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections in Russia.

The Russian parliamentarian described this attitude as strange because only the Supreme Court shall decide if the Central Electoral Commission was right when it refused to register Yabloko's lists.

Ryurikov Corrects Media Misreading of Summit Results

MM3110162195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Vadim Markushin: "Ryurikov Postscript to Yeltsin Trip"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dmitriy Ryurikov, the Russian president's foreign policy assistant, deemed it necessary to deliver to journalists, as he put it, a "postcript" to Boris Yeltsin's recent trip to New York. In his opinion certain mass media made not entirely reasonable assessments of the results of this mission, in connection with which additional points have to be made.

The president's assistant said that he did not agree that Yeltsin's speech at the United Nations bore the hallmark of an election campaign and the desire to "flex his muscles." According to him it was a "carefully considered, well thought-out speech on which the president had done a lot of work." The speech displays Russia's concern over the situation in Europe and the plans to enlarge NATO. It contains a vision of achievements and shortcomings and of the United Nations' role in the 21st century. Russia does not consider the United Nations an ineffective organization, it is a question of the behavior of certain of its members, who are reducing the United Nations' effectiveness by their actions (as has been observed in Bosnia), Ryurikov said.

The leitmotiv of the conversation that took place between the Russian Federation and U.S. Presidents was the idea of partnership, Ryurikov said. The reserve of durability accumulated in U.S.-Russian relations in recent years, including in numerous personal contacts in various areas, came to the fore. At the same time the conversation was difficult because each side was defending its national interests.

The main question of the conversation with Clinton was Bosnia. It was recognized that Russia will participate in the operations. But the forms of this participation still have to be determined, which is what Ministers Grachev and Perry are doing in Washington at the moment.

Regarding the problem of flank restrictions, Ryurikov said that Clinton had been given the appropriate map and proposals. A compromise was outlined.

Chernomyrdin Asks U.S., Pakistan for Hostage Help

LD3110180195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has asked U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to assist in releasing Russian citizens detained by the Afghan Taleban opposition movement, a top-ranking official from Russia's Foreign Ministry said in an interview with INTERFAX Moscow.

Fighters of the Afghan Taleban opposition movement forced down an IL-76 transport aircraft belonging to the Russian Aerostan private aviation company (Russia's Tatarstan) near Qandahar on August 3. The Talebs are still holding members of the crew, seven in number.

"It's not a secret that the Pakistanis exert a certain influence on Talebs," the spokesman said. "We have never addressed them at such a level, though Moscow established a dialogue on this problem with Pakistan practically from the very beginning," the diplomat said. But he warned that concrete results would have to wait until after the request for help had been received.

As far as the United States is concerned, its influence can be fruitful, the diplomat said. "We hope that Washington will assist in releasing Russian citizens, who are kept as hostages by the Talebs, in the spirit of partnership which has developed in our relations with Washington," he said.

Moscow believes that "it's not worth turning to anybody now," according to him. "Everything will depend upon the situation later on," he summarized.

'Rosy Period' of U.S. Economic Aid Reportedly Over

MM3110170495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 15

[Article by Anna Kozyreva: "What Is in the Hand of the Giver. Russian-U.S. Economic Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York and Moscow — "I will lend you money but you must use it to buy my old umbrella!" — you will agree that you would hardly borrow money on those terms. Especially since you do not need your friend's umbrella, but on the contrary, you need boots. But something that does not suit us in everyday life may quite well suit us when it is a question of big-league politics. In this case I am referring to U.S. aid for Russia.

At one time, or to be more precise, two years ago Bill Clinton said: "We must extend Russia not a helping hand but the hand of friendship!"

But as the saying goes in our country: "Friendship is one thing but business is another!" That is why the Americans had a very serious think, before giving Russia loans, about what would be better for them — to help or not. And they concluded that it was better for them to help. Particularly if the funds are earmarked for programs that the Americans themselves have devised. In short, the aid situation is often reminiscent of the situation depicted in the umbrella story above.

Thus, $0.7 billion were allocated as a soft 15-year loan for food purchases from U.S. farmers. Along with this sum the United States spent $2.6 billion on aid for Russia in the period from the end of 1991 through 1 July 1995. In addition, export state credit on commercial terms (including grain credits) and investment guarantees totaled just over $5 billion.

Of late the amount of funding for direct aid for Russia has fallen — from $1.6 billion in 1994 to $379 million in fiscal 1995 and to a requested $250 million for fiscal 1996.

Thus it seems as though the "rosy period" in Russian-U.S. relations has become a thing of the past. Our immoderate delight over the economic cooperation between our countries and hopes of effective U.S. aid have also become a thing of the past. The time has come to "gather stones together," the time has come to take a sober look at this cooperation and aid and realize what Russia has really gained and is gaining as a result.

Recently it seemed that with U.S. aid we would solve all our economic problems easily and rapidly. But that did not happen.

At the Washington summit in September 1994 the two countries' presidents signed a statement on the principles and aims of developing trade, economic, and investment cooperation. The purpose being to improve Russian goods' access to the U.S. market.

In 1994 commodity turnover rose compared to 1993, totaling $5.8 billion: exports of $3.2 billion and imports of $2.6 billion. We supply the United States with raw materials — ferrous, nonferrous, and precious metals, and oil, along with the products of oil refining and mineral fertilizers, the production of which is considered "dirty."

As for investment cooperation, the Americans are once again showing interest in our mineral wealth and intend to invest money in oil and gas prospecting and extraction.

In June 1995 an agreement was signed on the division of output under the "Sakhalin-1" project with the participation of the U.S. company Exxon, and joint projects for the exploration of the Timano-Pechorskiy oil and gas field are being studied.

To be fair, it should be noted that cooperation is under way in the sphere of telecommunications, computer production, and hotels.

There are around 600 enterprises in Russia involving U.S. capital. But all these enterprises account for around $2 billion of investments.

It should also be noted that Bill Clinton himself, shortly after becoming President, addressed U.S. newspaper editors and set out very clearly the reasons why it is beneficial to help and cooperate with us.

Incidentally, there are also programs for aid to our country that are effectively working for the United States: The money allocated goes back home because it pays for the upkeep of U.S. doctors, lawyers, and economists working in Russia.

There is also substantial evidence that the International Development Agency, which is also providing aid, only contracts out its programs to U.S. firms. And these firms receive on average 30- 50 percent of the funds allocated by the International Development Agency. Sometimes as much as 90 percent of all the money has been spent on U.S. consultants' wages.

Of the $2.8 billion appropriated for International Development Agency programs for aid to the CIS countries in

1992-1994, only $747.7 million has actually been implemented.

We also have to "pay for" U.S. loans in the economic sphere: We have lost many markets, and sales of Russian weapons on the world market have fallen dramatically, while U.S. sales on the other hand have risen.

It may be that it is no coincidence and not for such selfless reasons that Americans are helping us to mothball our defense industry.

Fortunately, the Russian side has of late been beginning to realize that you only find free cheese in a mouse trap.

Russian Rocket Engine Completes U.S. Test Program

MM3110163195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 3

["Own information" report: "Russian Rocket Engine Testing in United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sacramento — Russia's NK-33 rocket engine has again successfully confirmed its high reliability and efficiency during another test firing at the Aerojet firm's testbed in Sacramento, firing for the 40 seconds prescribed under the multimode [mnogorezhimnyy] testing program.

The completion of this stage of testing paves the way for Russian space equipment to take part in the U.S. Government's competition to develop new-generation launchers. This family of launchers — dubbed the EELV (Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle) — is designed to place state and commercial payloads in orbit. The plan envisages the development of a family of modular launchers to replace the American "workhorses" — the Delta, Atlas, and Titan launchers.

Forum on European Security Seen as Step Forward

MM0111122695 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Tretyakov: "Search for Points of Contact. European Security Problems Discussed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw — "Germany, Poland, Russia, and European Security" — that was the topic of an international scientific conference held in Warsaw. Scientists from Russia, Poland, and Germany who are concerned with questions of the creation of a new security system on the continent took part.

The forum participants were addressed by Polish Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy, who, describing his country's international position, stressed that the present contacts with Germany are better than has ever been the case in the past, while in its relations with Russia Warsaw seeks a qualitatively new kind of good-neighborly ties.

It is Poland's unswerving aim, he said, to join the political and economic structures of the West — NATO and the EU. This desire is supported, according to public opinion polls, by 75 percent of Polish society. In this connection we are aware of the position expressed on this matter by a significant proportion of Russian politicians. However, that does not mean that we share that view.

J. Oleksy believes that a strategic treaty between NATO and Russia, and possibly also with Ukraine, will be of key significance. Poland fully supports the principle of strategic partnership between NATO and Russia. This is in accordance with the realities of Greater Europe and should be the basis for peaceful coexistence in the European region. We should seek what unites us, not what disunites us, the Polish premier stressed.

In the course of the discussion that took place, various views on European security questions were expressed. It must be noted that Russia's representatives, irrespective of their political views, came out unanimously against the eastward expansion of NATO. They warned that this could lead to a new partition of Europe. Their view was shared by, admittedly, only isolated voices on the Polish and German sides.

Your correspondent asked Igor Maksimychev, a scientist from the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Europe who is concerned with international questions of European security, to comment on the Polish head of government's speech and the course of the conference's work, and to answer a number of questions.

"It was a useful meeting," he said. "The point is that since 1990 only one partner has existed for us in the world — the United States, and to a very small degree Israel, Germany, and Japan. Eastern Europe has held virtually no place in our foreign policy. So this conference, which was organized by the Polish side with the Germans' help, is a very necessary thing that will help us to some extent to find a way out of the situation, since the entire debate on NATO's eastward expansion relies on increasing alienation between Russia and Poland. Solutions of some kind must be found to the situation that is taking shape. This requires constant dialogue and discussions that are acceptable to both sides, and these do not exist."

[Tretyakov] Will it turn out that the absence of dialogue could lead to a new "Cold War"?

[Maksimychev] No, I don't think so, but the partition of Europe is perfectly possible. After all, what does NATO expansion mean, even if you disregard the military aspect of this question, which I am convinced is of no great significance while powerful nuclear weapons exist? It will lead not to the creation of a Greater Europe, but to the emergence of new demarcation lines on the continent. NATO expansion means the creation of a virtually Europe-wide security area from which only one country will be excluded — Russia. Naturally, actions of this kind will lead to the partition of Europe. [Maksimychev ends]

In the general view of the participants in the conference, it promoted a better understanding of complex European problems among scientists from the three countries, although it did not, of course, eliminate those problems. Nor could it have done so. Too many of them have accumulated. However, a step has been taken toward a rapprochement of positions and a quest for points of contact, and that indicates that the objective of the international conference was achieved.

Political Issues

Further Reportage, Commentary on Yeltsin's Illness

Vorobyev: Yeltsin's Health Stable

LD3110154595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1513 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Today's EKG of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is undergoing treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital, is almost the same as the one taken prior to his visit to France and the United States, and the president's state of health is stable, Academician Andrey Vorobyev, who heads a team of doctors treating the president, told journalists today.

There has been no development in his heart muscle that could indicate a threat to Yeltsin's capability for work, Vorobyev said. Vorobyev is the head of the All-Russia Institute of the Haemotological Scientific Center of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He said that the optimum term of the president's stay at the Central Clinical Hospital is until the end of November.

Yeltsin, Ilyushin Hold Meeting

LD0111120995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 1 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today met his first aide Viktor Ilyushin in the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow to discuss priority items on the President's working agenda.

Well-informed sources in the Kremlin told ITAR-TASS that the President and his aide parlayed for nearly 60 minutes but refused to disclose the exact range of questions discussed and decisions arrived at.

The source said, however, that current problems of Russia's foreign and home policy were discussed along with a number of documents and a mechanism of contacts between the head of state and his aides for the period of his stay in the hospital.

According to the same source the long conversation between the president and his aide was a sign of Yeltsin's return to "active work."

Earlier, Yeltsin's doctors told his aides not to insist on holding working meetings with the President, saying they found working contacts at the early stages of the President's heart disease "unadvisable."

Ilyushin on Illness, Aides' Work

MM3110211695 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 1

[Interview with Viktor Ilyushin, premier aide to the Russian Federation president, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Kremlin: Hiatus in Contacts But Not in Work. Viktor Ilyushin Tells ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Office How Boris Yeltsin's Team of Aides Is Working During His Illness" — first two paragraphs are ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday was an ordinary working day at the Kremlin. As always, the guards were vigilantly and strictly checking papers at the entrance to the president's official residence. There is no commotion in the corridors with their soft carpets. And it was only the minutes I spent in the reception room of Viktor Ilyushin, the Russian Federation president's premier aide, (it is my habit to arrive early for a meeting) that conveyed the natural tension always present in a home when somebody close is sick. Of course, there were phone calls. They were coming in from all over. "How is Boris Nikolayevich feeling?" "I hope he gets well soon!" Admittedly, there were also some malicious calls. It is amazing the kinds of people who know such important phone numbers. It is no secret, of course, but nonetheless....

The premier aide's working day was busy as always. And, as always, the time allotted to meetings was unswervingly observed. We turned on the microphone at 1630 [Moscow time].

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Viktor Vasilyevich! How is the president's health?

[Ilyushin] According to the information from the doctors treating him — with whom we are in daily contact — Boris Nikolayevich's health is improving today compared with the previous days.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Have you met with the president?

[Ilyushin] Not yet.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] ?!

[Ilyushin] I don't see anything unusual about that, since it is the doctors' job to determine the possibility and time of any visits. Although, of course, I would like to see him, since every day the president is away creates a kind of hiatus for us, his aides....

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] And now the president is inviting you. What — if it is no secret — will you be telling him?

[Ilyushin] There are the president's constitutional duties, which nobody else can carry out. Nobody apart from Boris Nikolayevich can sign edicts or federal laws. There are, admittedly, other matters which could be resolved somewhat later. Probably nothing will happen if Boris Nikolayevich doesn't make a decision on the award of some state honors in the next five-ten days or, perhaps, comes to a decision on citizenship issues somewhat later. But a federal law is another matter. There are constitutional deadlines within which the president has to sign such a law. Consequently, it is natural that these documents will be discussed at my next meeting with Boris Nikolayevich. We will also come to an agreement, of course, on a plan of contacts.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] There have been reports in the media that the chief of the Security Service has met with the president....

[Ilyushin] I don't think there is any reason to be jealous. Everyone has to do their own job.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Does the head of state's location have any impact on the fulfillment of his presidential duties?

[Ilyushin] I would say that of late we have arranged a working system and a mechanism of collaboration which makes it not particularly important, it seems to me, what location the president finds himself in. For us aides there is no fundamental difference whether he works in the Kremlin or in his out-of-town residence. Apart, perhaps, from the ability to go into his office and talk to Boris Nikolayevich personally. When it is a question of urgent matters, we have always been able to get in contact with him — irrespective of where the president is. Of course, the hospital is a different situation. That is wrapped up with the physical condition of Boris Nikolayevich and, of course, there will naturally be a certain hiatus in the president's work.

But since the president does not handle the direct leadership of the government's activity (our Constitution stipulates that the head of state determines the country's foreign and domestic policy) I believe that the president's absence for a certain period of time will not affect our foreign or domestic policy in this instance. All the more so as Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, who has the president's confidence, is in charge of the government's work.

And then, who said that the president has to be at his desk in the Kremlin from early in the morning until late at night? The president often works weekends as well. I know for a fact that his working day at his out-of-town residence sometimes starts at six in the morning.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Are the power ministers able to report to the president?

[Ilyushin] I have already said that Boris Nikolayevich's contacts with everyone are limited at the moment. I know that the leaders of certain departments have personal meetings with the president, and nobody is an intermediary in those cases. I cannot speak for those people now, but there has probably not been any such need — but if there was such a need it is my colleagues' task to help establish urgent contact with the president. I think that, were such circumstances to arise, we would be able at any rate to also organize meetings with the president or with the premier, since most of the power structure leaders are also members of the government. That, too, should not be forgotten.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Has your working schedule and that of your colleagues changed as a result of the president's illness?

[Ilyushin] To a certain extent, yes. For the past few days since Boris Nikolayevich went into the hospital we have had limited contact with him and there has been no chance to consult or clarify his positions on certain matters. On the other hand, there is a huge amount of work which each aide does independently. Yesterday we met to discuss how to organize our work properly while Boris Nikolayevich is away. The situation now differs from the summer because political feelings are running high — after all, the election campaign is in full swing. But there is no confusion in the Aides' Service [Sluzhba pomoshchnikov] because of this. Everybody knows their job. I cannot recall a time when, despite our different views of certain problems, we were unable to find an agreed approach toward solving them.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] But why are the doctors still silent? Why are they not saying anything about the president's condition?

[Ilyushin] I agree that it might perhaps have been better if the doctors had informed the public about Boris Nikolayevich's condition. But if there is a vacuum in that area, then we have to fill it. We have nonetheless managed to convince the doctors, and this evening the specialists monitoring Boris Nikolayevich's condition will voice their opinion.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] How often are you in contact with the premier at the moment?

[Ilyushin] Practically every day.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] And on what issues?

[Ilyushin] I can hardly tell you about all the subjects of our conversations. We have been talking about the president's health, naturally. As for current affairs — in particular, we have been talking about the progress in selling some of the state shareholding in privatized enterprises as collateral. This is an important campaign, and it must be under control. I believe that the premier will be meeting with Boris Nikolayevich in the very near future and we will gradually be getting back to normal.

Rybkin: No Need To Transfer Authority

LD0111154095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — Russian State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin is confident that President Yeltsin is well enough to continue his presidential duties.

"Now there is no need to develop any additional mechanisms for transferring presidential power functions to anybody else," Rybkin said in a Wednesday interview with INTERFAX. The Constitution has already determined all issues on power transfer, he added.

The president is considered to be able-bodied and "it's unimportant that he is staying in hospital," Rybkin underlined. Commenting on the president's health, Rybkin noted that "everybody over 60 years old has heart troubles and all of us start feeling where the heart is."

He assumed that his traditional meeting with the president, which as a rule is held on the first Tuesday of every month, is unlikely to take place in November. However, Rybkin hopes for a meeting in December.

There is no need to convene an extraordinary sitting of the State Duma due to the fact that the Central Electoral Commission has not registered lists of the candidates from the Yabloko electoral movement, Rybkin continued. Those who have the right to raise this issue have not advocated convening a sitting, he said.

Characterizing the situation as a whole Rybkin said that the problem is nothing more than "a storm in a tea-cup."

The likelihood of delaying or cancelling the December elections to the State Duma is "equal to nought," Rybkin believes.

Text of Interview With Naina Yeltsin

LD3110185195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Here is the full text of an interview with President Yeltsin's wife, Naina. Mrs Yeltsin was interviewed by Vyacheslav Terekhov.

IF: Mrs. Yeltsin, it is quite natural that everybody is interested in the president's condition.

MRS YELTSIN: I can say with relief that my husband is better now. Official statements about the president's health have been issued to the mass media systematically. May I tell you that doctors are not deceiving anybody. I believe there is no need for publishing any sort of a regular bulletin on the subject.

I also fear that a decision to issue such a bulletin would make people nervous. Why making a such a fuss? It's not very pleasant to read all sorts of rumors about Boris Nikolayevich's ailment in the newspapers and hear the same on television... I have been told that even the Russian economy is affected and shares have begun to lose in value.

I am pretty certain that we should take a calmer attitude to all this. The president's health gives no reasons for panic. True, we, the family, are a little bit nervous. But it is beyond all doubt that any talk about the president's inability to stay in control of nuclear launch codes is out of place. It scares people. Our life is far from calm and easy even without that. I believe that no such statements should be made in the press or television. Let us take a more humane attitude to this.

The president's health is not just a matter of concern for his relatives, but for all people of Russia. Many people are genuinely worried about the president's health. I believe he deserves such an attitude — the president is doing so much for the country and one cannot but notice that.

We all see that life in Russia has changed a great deal, however hard it may be now. I am not going to say that we are having an easy life. The wages of the personnel in the hospital where I visit my husband are very low. People have to work extra hours. The same applies to teachers.

But we cannot keep saying "awful, awful, awful" all the time. I don't think somebody would like to return to the past, where there were long lines for any essentials. In those days we all had to humiliate ourselves to be able to buy something.

I must remind everybody that the president takes the credit for the positive changes in Russia. There should be a more considerate attitude to his ailment. Why exaggerate things? Let us be impartial.

Reforms should not be understood as universal prosperity established as of tomorrow by decree. Our society is undergoing an evolution. Everybody understands that in the industrialized countries the standard of living is high and we in Russia wish to live well, too. All of us need health to make our life happier. It is not just the president who needs health. All people of Russia need it.

IF: Everybody knows you are a public figure. Has your husband's ailment detracted you from your usual public duties?

MRS YELTSIN: I cannot say that I am a great public figure. My timetable has not changed. All the meetings I was scheduled to have yesterday and the day before yesterday did take place. The president's ailment has not altered my schedule in any way.

The NTV channel recently showed the hospital where Boris Nikolayevich is undergoing treatment. The newscaster said the whole family is constantly present there. This is not true, of course. Such a remark is utterly inappropriate. Naturally, we all visit Boris Nikolayevich. This would be quite natural in any family. When a person is taken ill, his relatives visit him quite often. But we are not staying there round the clock.

I asked journalists on Monday not to wander around the hospital. I must repeat this request once again. They should not do this. Nobody at the gate will ever tell them anything. Even if somebody does say something, that would be a falsehood. Only someone who has talked with the patient or his doctors can say anything. Why standing in front of the hospital? This causes many inconveniences to the staff on duty and those who drive through the hospital's gates. Journalists must understand this. All inquiries about the patient's health must be addressed to the doctor.

IF: How is Boris Nikolayevich in general? What's his mood?

MRS YELTSIN: I cannot say he is very happy. He is in hospital, after all. Of course, he looks forward to the day when he will be able to get out. I have been persuading him to take a full course of treatment and telling his doctors the same. Last time, when Boris Nikolayevich had heart problems, he had to interrupt his treatment. A number of very important meetings were due to begin in a week's time.

Naturally, the president can neglect all current affairs and he will be ever more active with every day. Yesterday he studied and signed a number of documents.

I stayed there since morning. Boris Nikolayevich is slightly better now.

Before the aggravation we had a very strenuous journey (Moscow, Paris, New York, Moscow. — PB). There was a very difficult landing in bad weather. It was a hard trip. My husband customarily seeks to cope with everything within the tightest deadlines. This time, too, he got down to work as soon as he stepped out of the plane. All of his trips are like this.

As soon as the talks were over, we got into the plane and left back for Moscow. Such a strain may prove intolerable, bearing in mind the jet lag. The visit was easier for me, yet I was not very well, either, when we returned to Moscow.

IF: As your husband's wife, can you persuade him to change his schedule, to take some rest?

MRS YELTSIN: Sadly, I cannot demand anything from him. He is very careless about his health. He has always been. I am so worried.

He thinks that in his younger days he had an athlete's health, because he had to experience so much. Life was not easy then. Boris Nikolayevich had a very difficult job in the then Sverdlovsk — currently Yekaterinburg — when he was head of the Sverdlovsk region. Those were very difficult ten years.

The past ten years spent in Moscow I am just unable to describe. That was a moral and physical strain few persons can cope with.

Boris Nikolayevich dedicates himself entirely to his job. I told him a while ago: you cannot be a senior official, because a leader must be indifferent in a way. I am exaggerating, of course, because in reality any senior official's heart is vulnerable to excessive strain.

It was very, very difficult to see all this. We, the family, see and feel this. It is not only his heart that aches. My heart and the hearts of our children ache, too, in a sense. It was he who taught us to live our lives this way. We feel how heavy the presidential burden is. We wish so much to make it easier for him! Deplorably, we are making a very slow progress.

I am reluctant to utter the word "reform," though. I believe that what we are witnessing now is an evolutionary process. Our progress has been very slow. Retardation is noticeable in Moscow and locally, too.

Generally speaking, we are all from the past. Since we have lived so many years with a certain understanding of life and it is very difficult to change everything overnight. We cannot be accused of this, either, and it is impossible to demand too much of the president and the government now.

The shops are full. Russia is building itself. When you are on a plane, you can see that construction is underway around Moscow and all over Russia. I believe that as long as people build homes the country shall be alive Wrong are those who say that Russia is doomed. We have good people, we have a very rich and beautiful country and it will certainly recover from its current ills. I am an optimist.

I am certain that the president is working really hard to earn Russia greater authority in the international scene. We really deserve it. I believe that all Russians must help the president and government to cope with problems and not put themselves in "black opposition." There must be an opposition, provided it is a sound opposition. Such an opposition will push the government and president forward. The "black opposition" — I just don't know a different name for it — simply obstructs progress and harms the people of Russia.

Korzhakov Rumored To Be in Power

MM3110165895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 7

[Report by Nikolay Paklin: "Balm for Lebed's Soul. From Paris"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris — France's influential LE MONDE claims in its 31 October issue:

The actual state of health of Boris Yeltsin, who is currently in a Moscow hospital, continues to be a major mystery. Only Aleksandr Korzhakov, the head of the president's personal bodyguard and whose influence is quite clearly growing, has access to the head of state....

The impression is being created that power in the country has to all intents and purposes been in Aleksandr Korzhakov's hands for five days now.

It seems as though the head of the government has no intention to strive to have transferred to him temporary presidential powers, as allowed by the Constitution in the event of the president's being unable to carry them out.

The president's illness is a new circumstance which is throwing into confusion all the plans drawn up several months ago by those who wanted to remain in power in the Kremlin. The choice of tactics now remains with two people at the summit of power — Korzhakov and Chernomyrdin.

The fame of General Lebed in the Russian heartlands — particularly among women — makes him a serious candidate in the June 1996 presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Daily Deplores Lack of Information

MM3110152695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Acute Information Insufficiency. Chronic Ailment Afflicting Russian Society Against Backdrop of President's Latest Hospitalization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "There have been no substantive changes in the president's state of health. There are no negative dynamics. He is undergoing a course of intensive therapy. His doctors continue to advise against meetings...." Russian society has been "drip-fed" information like this since the day that Boris Yeltsin was hospitalized yet again. Almost a week has passed and there have been "no substantive changes" as yet discernible in the volume or nature of the information officially disseminated by the Kremlin on the president's illness. And there are no dynamics visible either. The details of the Russian head of state's stay in hospital, which are currently of interest to the entire world, are hidden behind the fenced-off Central Clinical Hospital.

What do we know? We know that the president has been affected by another attack of ischemic heart disease. That this attack was "milder than July's." That his "circulation is unstable, there are no signs of cardiac insufficiency, and intensive therapy is being administered." And that is all. Trivially little for the required and necessary minimum of information on the health of the leader of any country. Much less one like today's Russia, where even a temporary incapacity of the leader can sharply affect political equilibrium and trigger upheavals.

The haste of the official assurances that Boris Yeltsin's health is not under serious threat is increasingly obvious with every passing day. If, as Viktor Chernomyrdin hastened to state, "there are no fears about the way the president feels" and "it will take a whole week for him to recover," then why should the doctors ban everyone apart from his wife and close relatives from gaining admittance to Yeltsin?

In their carefully filtered reports on Boris Yeltsin's health the Kremlin press service is citing the authoritative opinion of Sergey Mironov, leader of the Russian Federation President's Medical Center. But Mironov himself has not once appeared on TV or been interviewed by the newspapers. He may be keeping a cautious distance between his medical conclusions and the official interpretation of them.

The anonymity of the persons giving their medical opinions of the president's state of health is very remarkable and equally suspicious. On 31 October ITAR-TASS carried the report: "There are 'clear signs of improvement' in the Russian president's condition, a **source** (my emphasis — V.V.) at the Central Clinical Hospital reported. According to the information at his disposal, 'the blood supply to Boris Yeltsin's myocardium has stabilized, and no cardiac insufficiency has been observed during his entire period of in-patient treatment.'"

Who was this source? If it was a doctor with a name, official position, academic degree, and professional reputation, why not name him? Why have none of the president's physicians so far given a clear-cut, documented, signed medical opinion that could be published on Boris Yeltsin's illness? This kind of thing was the norm even in the Stalinist era. The truth or otherwise of the "bulletin on the state of health" of the top man in the state was the responsibility of the person who signed the bulletin. Or it would not be, if for some reason he refused to sign it.... So far the only way to convince the country and the world of the relative health of the Russian president has been the feudally patriarchal report that Korzhakov has been playing tennis. The idea being that if the head of the Security Service and Yeltsin's closest associate is not yet present at the stricken Boris Nikolayevich's bedside, but is calmly working on his serve — then everything must be OK with the president!

Incidentally, there can be no doubt that there will be a stream of reports forthcoming over the next few days — the president has signed an edict.... The president has sent a greetings message to an international congress.... The president has familiarized himself with a draft government decree.... And, as has happened in the past, we will learn at second hand about the head of state's workload, which has not been relaxed even with him in his hospital bed.

The acute information insufficiency accompanying Boris Yeltsin's current hospitalization may be the most serious symptom of the ailment afflicting Russian democracy. And, at the same time, the best cover for palace intrigues with far-reaching consequences.

Yeltsin Signs Laws on Minimum Wage, Pensions

LD0111122195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1102 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, now undergoing treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow, signed two laws on minimum pension rise and indices and minimum pay increases on Wednesday, Yeltsin's press office reported.

Minimum pensions and minimum wages are to increase to 57,770 rubles a month from November 1, 60,500 rubles from December 1 and 63,250 rubles from January 1, 1996 or 5 percent, 10 percent and 15 percent respectively.

Both laws take effect from November 1.

Yeltsin also sent a bill on military-technical cooperation with other countries to the State Duma on Wednesday.

Poll Reflects Dissatisfaction With Yeltsin

964F0243A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Boris, You Are Wrong Again!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the monitoring conducted by sociologists of Altay State University, the majority of those polled disapprove of the activity of B. Yeltsin in the office of president of the Russian Federation. This inevitably recalls Ye. Ligachev's sacramental words "Boris, you are wrong!"

Of what do Siberians accuse the president? Primarily of having unleashed war in Chechnya. But it was not only the events in the Caucasus that were important. B. Yeltsin is censured for dictatorial ways (12 percent), and many people link his name with the danger of Russia's collapse (25 percent), its dependence on the United States (24 percent), and the possibility of civil war (31 percent).

Lebed Addresses Yeltsin's Health, NATO, Elections

BR3110142795 Madrid ABC in Spanish 29 Oct 95 pp 34-35

[Interview with Russian General Aleksandr Lebed by Juan Cierco in Moscow; date not given: "It Looks Like Yeltsin's Time Has Come Sooner or Later" — first two paragraphs are ABC introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] He chain-smokes. He lights one cigarette after another with the same ease with which he criticizes the government. Yet the smoke hanging over the interview does not manage to drown out his deep, booming voice. He does not speak, but protests. He limits himself to making pronouncements. His deep-set blue eyes scrutinize you directly. He is dressed in civilian clothes but they cannot conceal his military personality. Anyone who dares to interrupt him suffers his abrupt but serious reprimand. When taking your leave of him you do not know if you are supposed to stand at attention. Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed, the powerful and charismatic general of a Russian Army that is treating him respectfully, is now bent on going over rough political terrain.

He will soon face his first test — the legislative elections in December — but he will get a chance to take the test again at the presidential elections in June 1996.

[Cierco] What impact could Yeltsin's hospitalization have on Russian political life?

[Lebed] Personally, I am very pessimistic about the state of his health. No matter what his entourage says, he is not at all well. It looks like Boris Yeltsin's time has come; sooner or later it comes for everyone. There is no doubt that what has happened will have an impact on the election campaign for the legislative elections and — in the longer term — on the presidential elections.

[Cierco] Do you think Yeltsin was talking about you when he said that he is not going to let the extremists come to power?

[Lebed] Certainly not, I am not an extremist. I am in the opposition. I am firmly opposed to the current government, but I am not an extremist.

[Cierco] Would you be prepared to unite force with the Communists and nationalists after the December elections?

[Lebed] If by nationalists we mean Zhirinovskiy's party then the answer is a resounding no. Any madman can make war on his own account. I would never join forces with a madman like him, even if power were the reward.

[Cierco] What about with the Communists?

[Lebed] Union with the Communists is possible, as is union with the Agrarian Party, with the "Women of Russia," and with the Democratic Party of Russia. We are a people who have to consolidate ourselves by becoming united. We must stop considering other political groups as enemies and set an example as a civilized country.

[Cierco] What about with Yeltsin himself? Would you agree to be his defense minister, for example?

[Lebed] No. I am not a puppet. I do not wish to be manipulated nor do I wish to become involved in the exchanges surrounding this government. Some 90 percent of the Ministry's structure would have to change before I accepted that post.

[Cierco] What would you do first if you came to power?

[Lebed] Change the Constitution. We have a bad Constitution created by a wretched Duma. The government is merely trying to make up reality and close its eyes to the people and the foreign dignitaries who visit us. We also have to create enough jobs for those people who do not currently have one, and thus obtain the best we can from them. In addition, we have to facilitate investment and prevent ourselves from caving into the fear caused by crime and political instability.

[Cierco] Why do you think the West supports Yeltsin if, as you say, democracy is conspicuous by its absence in Russia?

[Lebed] Precisely because there is no democracy.

[Cierco] Do you think this is jeopardizing the holding of presidential elections in June 1996?

[Lebed] Undoubtedly. Moreover, the government has created its own mechanism in order to justify a cancellation [of the elections]. Chechnya is a weapon which the government can use as it pleases to decree — for example — a state of emergency and thus put an end to any election process.

[Cierco] How would you react in such a case?

[Lebed] If they attack us we will defend ourselves. In such a case the people would have to leave their apathy behind and participate. For 10 years now, we have tried everything. We were sold "perestroyka" as a democracy and just look at what it turned into: daily skirmishes. We have to find our own path, once we have left Socialism behind and in view of the fact that Western capitalism has passed us by.

[Cierco] Could a coup provoke this kind of reaction?

[Lebed] The Spanish people avoided another civil war after Franco's death by all having the same rights and being equal in the eyes of the law. A society cannot be built up using the martial rules. However, we cannot simply disregard the fact that the discontent in the Army has created a serious problem although I do not think it is very likely that it will lead to a coup.

[Cierco] Will the elections be clean and free, if they are held?

[Lebed] They will not be clean in December or in June. Fraud is the order of the day. Here there are no rules that apply, and it does not really matter much if there are neutral international observers since the West does not want Russia to become a democracy. It only wants Russia not to be a nuisance.

[Cierco] Could NATO's determination to enlarge to Eastern Europe further consolidate the discontent in the military?

[Lebed] Of course. In 1939, the invasion of Poland led to 50 million deaths. Today, this kind of wager could be even worse. The price of enlargement would be very high. Not only would we return to a stage similar to the Cold War, but we could even get involved in a "hot war." Yeltsin is indeed right about this when he rejects NATO's expansionist desires.

[Cierco] Is there a secret order for you not to appear on Russian television?

[Lebed] There is nothing secret about it. The Kremlin's orders are clear. Lebed must be prevented from appearing on television. But they are not going to intimidate me with these kinds of measures, nor will they stop me with the commissions of inquiry that they have set up in Pridniestrovia. They are not going to find anything because there is nothing to find. I am a soldier, not a crook like them.

[Cierco] How would you restore order to Russia?

[Lebed] We would clean up the legislative bodies from top to bottom. We would throw out all the crooks governing us once and for all. We would have to adjust forces and use strict measures. The criminals carry automatic weapons, drive the latest cars, and enjoy satellite communications. They are being fought by the modest Agent Joe Blow who has a Makarov pistol and a dilapidated jeep with only 10 liters of gas. On the other hand, if the state intervenes and adjusts the fight, then Joe Blow will have all the advantages.

[Cierco] At the last elections, Yeltsin counted on General Rutskoy to attract the military vote. Do you not fear that the same parallel will be drawn between you and Skokov, who is the president of the Congress of Communities of Russia?

[Lebed] All comparisons are odious, and that one even more so. We will not do what they did, when Yeltsin left the rake on the ground and Rutskoy walked on it causing it to hit him smack in the face. We are a team and we are presenting ourselves as such to the voters. We will not divide up our forces in the future, but we will merge them in order to gain greater influence.

[Cierco] Earlier you mentioned the apathy of the Russian people. What is needed for them to shrug off this indifference and go out into the streets?

[Lebed] Now that — as the poet Pushkin said — would be a real coup! In actual fact, any last straw could trigger a social explosion at any time. The Russian citizen has a great ability for moving from one extreme to another in just a few seconds. There is just a small gap between apathy and violence, indifference and destruction. And this gap can be crossed in a split second. We must try to prevent this. We must ensure that the people become more involved on a day-to-day basis, yet while obeying the law. One must obtain power through elections, or at least one must try to do so.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Seminar on Kurd Issues

LD3110212095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Valery Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement today to denounce the bid of participants of a seminar on Kurd problems, in progress in Moscow now, to palm it as a meeting of "parliament of Kurdestan in exile."

The statement, sent to ITAR-TASS today, says the Russian authorities do not have any relation to the seminar's declarations.

The seminar was planned the State Duma Geopolitical Affairs Committee jointly with the international association of Kurd organisations.

"Some participants in the seminar, with foreign nationals among them, have attempted to impart to the meeting a character of the so-called third session of 'parliament of Kurdistan in exile'," the statement says.

The Russian Foreign Ministry stressed Russia's adherence to versatile ties with Turkey and opposition to any separatist tendencies.

Agrarians Criticize State's Support of Agriculture

LD3110201995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the State Duma Sub-Committee for Agrarian Issues Vladimir Naumov criticized the Russian Government for insufficient support of agriculture. The government "makes declarations rather than provide real support to the agricultural-industrial complex," Naumov, who is also the deputy chairman of the Agrarian Union of Russia, told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview today.

"That is why the State Duma thought it necessary to adopt, despite objections from the president and the first deputy prime minister, the law on state regulation of agricultural production both in the second and third readings at one time," Naumov said.

"Deputies from the Agrarian Party believe that the Federation Council will not blockade the Duma-approved draft law," Naumov said. He repeated that the Federation Council, parliament's upper chamber, proposed the bill to the State Duma, parliament's lower chamber.

"Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays categorically objected to the bill well before the State Duma considered it for the first time," Naumov said. He quoted Chubays as calling the legislation's adoption as "the most gross violation of budget discipline."

"After the State Duma nevertheless considered the draft law in the first reading on September 9, a cautionary statement on the bill came from the Russian president," Naumov said. He said the president did not deny the need for state regulation of the agricultural-industrial complex but deemed it "too early to raise the issue" of adopting such a law.

"What gross violation of the budget discipline is meant, when the agricultural-industrial complex did not receive even a half of the funds budgeted for 1995 (13 trillion rubles) in the first nine months of this year," Naumov said. He said even less funds, "if inflation is taken into account," were intended for support of agriculture in the 1996 draft federal budget.

Naumov said the law on state regulation would help the agricultural-industrial complex, "which has become a donor of the economy within the context of the transition period," "step by step enter the market where the agricultural-industrial complex has not so far been allowed."

Media Issues

Article Views 'Intrigue' of Grachev-Gusev Affair

MK0111112495 Moscow ZAVTRA in Russian No. 43, Oct 95 (signed to press 24 Oct 95) p 1

["K.G.B." report: "Scoreboard"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yet another important intrigue started unfolding last week. It was well known that Pavel Grachev and MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS had been at loggerheads for a whole year. Moreover, Yeltsin had ordered the other day that Grachev cancel his visit to Greece and appear in court, where "the best defense minister we have" was about to have a hard time. But General Sergey Zdorikov, chief of the Defense Ministry Main Educational Work Directorate, managed to find the key to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS chief editor Pavel Gusev's door and invited him to a famous bath house belonging to the Tamanskaya Division, Yeltsin's court military unit. The "bath house party" with accompanying juicy details was secretly videotaped. This is how Gusev was hooked by Grachev. Judging from the fact that Gusev has already fired MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS military observer Aleksey Overchuk, the Defense Ministry and the newspaper will fall into each other's arms before long in an ecstasy of love.

But the intrigue runs even deeper. Zdorikov and Gusev unexpectedly went on "honeymoon" to the 14th Army in the Dniester Region, where they were cordially welcomed by General Yevnevich. Gusev was interested most of all in the subject of the "conspiracy" allegedly being hatched by Aleksandr Lebed and the compromising materials collected by Yevnevich. A few days later Yevnevich "unexpectedly" arrived in Moscow to attend the gathering devoted to Dmitriy Kholodov's remembrance.

And now a few explanations. Pasha Gusev is a Gusinskiy ("Most-Bank") man, and Gusinskiy has been waging an invisible war with Korzhakov. It is also known that recently relations between Grachev and Korzhakov abruptly went sour. Hence, the Grachev-Gusinskiy alliance is aimed against the all-powerful chief of the Presidential Security Service [SBP].

But there is yet another side to it. It is common knowledge how Gusinskiy hates Yuriy Skokov and how he tries to drive a wedge between Skokov and Lebed through his own media. "Marshal" Grachev's attitude to both Lebed and the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] is also well known. For instance, after Igor Rodionov, chief of the General Staff Academy, decided to run for the State Duma on the KRO ticket, Grachev's entourage launched an attack on one of the Soviet Army's most authoritative generals. Now it is planned to force Rodionov to resign and to replace him with Viktor Barynkin, chief of the General Staff Main Directorate for Operations, an old crony of Grachev's and a sinister "hero" of October 1993.

So, Yeltsin-Chernomyrdin and Gusinskiy-Grachev are launching a large-scale attack on Yuriy Skokov and the KRO.

Military & Space Issues

Daily Reviews Grachev's Visit to U.S.

MM3110164295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by observer Aleksandr Golts: "Russia Will Participate in the Peacekeeping Operation in Bosnia. But Not Under NATO Command. This Is the Chief Result of the Russian Federation Defense Minister's U.S. Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington-Kansas-Missouri-Moscow — ...The Russian general presses a button, and an instant later a Minuteman II missile launch silo explodes with a roar in the U.S. state of Missouri.... Having quickly crossed the ocean, Russian soldiers are being deployed in the state known as the "heart of America" — Kansas. Something which was the nightmare of Pentagon strategists some 10 years ago has become reality today. The reality of Russian-U.S. military cooperation witnessed by your correspondent, who accompanied Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, during his visit to the United States. But neither the destruction of the missile launch silo in accordance with the START I Treaty nor the visit to the Russian-U.S. "Peacekeeper-95" military exercises was the chief purpose of the trip.

Difficult, exhausting talks were the chief thing during the visit, which was expressly undertaken in accordance with a decision by the two countries' presidents. At the same time the task set Pavel Grachev and his U.S. colleague, William Perry, consisted in embodying the political decision by the Russian and U.S. presidents in specific accords. I will remind you that the decision is that our country will participate in all the stages of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. At the same time, however, Moscow and Washington adhered to totally different views concerning the specific kind of participation. Whereas the Americans insisted on full NATO control over all troops, this approach is unacceptable to the Russians. It follows from this that the task facing the ministers was, maybe, even somewhat harder than that facing the presidents, for disagreements over details can sometimes negate any agreement in principle. It was no coincidence that the participants reported nothing specific to the press throughout the first day. In just the same way as on the eve of the presidents' meeting skeptical sentiments prevailed in the U.S. press.

You had to be in the press center of the "Peacekeeper-95" exercise to feel all the dramatic tension of the pause which ensued after William Perry announced that accord had been reached. True, it came to light an instant later that he meant agreement concerning the holding of a special operation (proposed, incidentally, by Boris Yeltsin). I mean an operation by special troops to restore the devastated economy, to return refugees to areas of permanent residence, to clear the locality of mines, and to transport humanitarian aid. Under the accord a multinational contingent, which will include several thousand Russian and U.S. servicemen, but also soldiers and officers from other countries, will enter Bosnia one month after the belligerents disengage. It was decided that this operation will not take place under the control and leadership of NATO.

To judge from the U.S. press, which customarily is far more frank than officials, many people in Washington would like to reduce Russia's participation just to the rebuilding of roads and bridges and the rendering of humanitarian aid. For all the importance of this matter, however, the disengagement of the opposing sides and the creation of a buffer zone will be decisive. It is here that the fate of the Bosnian settlement and also, maybe, of European security is being decided. "We cannot," Pavel Grachev emphasized, talking with journalists, "and will not agree to a secondary role here. These were the president's instructions, and this was also my position."

According to the minister, he arrived in Washington with five options concerning who will direct the operation, what will be the structure of subordination in the course of carrying it out, and what will be the procedure for issuing and carrying out instructions, the cooperation procedure, and the accounting procedure.

At the same time it is totally unacceptable to Russia that its troops should be under NATO command. The essence of Moscow's approach is that multinational and not NATO forces are created to carry out the peacekeeping operation. In this case it is not ruled out that a U.S. general could command them. But a Russian must be his deputy, who will determine the tasks of our peacekeeping forces. In fact, such an approach has already received approval for a special operation.

U.S. spokesmen said that it would take time to work through these proposals, and they suggested holding another meeting of ministers in Brussels in the first half of November. Although they cannot fail to be attracted to the fact that Russia already possesses a trained division, a trained regiment, and several trained brigades for such an operation.

Skeptics will not fail to comment that Pavel Grachev and William Perry have not yet reached agreement on the chief problem. But here it is impossible to disagree with the Russian minister, who commented not without irony: The contact group on Bosnia met fruitlessly 16 times, but here they are demanding positive results after just the second meeting. To speak in earnest, the results of the talks can hardly be viewed outside the general context of U.S.-Russian relations in the military sphere.

But the development of these relations objectively pushes both countries toward closer cooperation. Pentagon officers unanimously maintained that the U.S.-Russian "Peacekeeper-95" exercises being held in Kansas have no bearing on the operation in Bosnia. In actual fact, the preparations for the exercises began long before the plans emerged for an operation with the participation of Russia and the United States. But it was no coincidence that the two countries' defense ministers set out for Kansas, where the state of Kansa, which does not appear on any political map, had been in existence for several days on the range of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley.

As distinct from the idyllic life of provincial Kansas, Kansa had been shaken by a bloody civil war lasting many years. When the cease-fire agreement was signed, Russian and U.S. peacekeepers headed for the country: 250 soldiers of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division and 150 men of the Russian division. Three checkpoints have grown up on the range: a U.S. one, a Russian one, and another one where a mixed subunit is deployed. Under the fault-finding eye of observers soldiers inspect vehicles, patrol on foot, and escort humanitarian convoys.

And they are by no means doing this in a friendly entourage. The malevolent and desperate inhabitants of Kansas (played also by men of the 1st Infantry) are easily taken in by the appeals of the extremists. Thus, a crowd gathers around the command post before the very eyes of Pavel Grachev and William Perry. The command calls on a rapid-response subdivision (also made up of our men and Americans). When the mob becomes most aggressive, several helicopters appear which land the subdivision. The men push the crowd back, skillfully extracting the ringleaders.

I asked one of the American officers taking part in the exercises whether they had any practical meaning or whether they were just a symbol of the cooperation between the two countries. The answer surprised me. Peacekeeping, the colonel said, is a new type of operation for us. We used to teach soldiers to win battles using weapons, now we have to train them to use force in strict doses. And whether you like it or not, you cannot help thinking that there would be nowhere better than Bosnia to apply the knowledge and habits acquired by the Russian and American guys in Kansas. The importance of military cooperation with the United States clearly goes beyond the framework of just the Bosnia settlement. That was recalled by a ceremony in Missouri, where the two ministers, simultaneously pressing a button controlling an explosive device, destroyed a silo for a Minuteman missile that had once been targeted against our country. The madness of the nuclear race should not be repeated, Pavel Grachev stressed in a speech at the ceremony. This, clearly, is well understood by both the Russian and the U.S. military.

When the minister's aircraft was already en route to Moscow, I asked the defense minister whether he felt there was a danger of a new cooling in our relations. No, he said. We can have heated discussions and fierce arguments in defense of our national interests. But ultimately everyone realizes that there is no alternative to cooperation. Consequently, paths to compromise are being found. Thus, on his return to Moscow, Pavel Grachev told journalists that Washington is ready to meet Russia halfway regarding changes to flank restrictions under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe....

Poll Reveals Russians' Fear of NATO Expansion

LD0111145895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — Forty percent of Russians said they fear NATO's plans of eastward expansion, according to a recent public opinion poll.

The poll, conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Center in late October, indicates that 14 percent of respondents believe that the integration of East European countries into NATO poses a "great threat" to Russia, 17 percent of those polled said such integration threatened Russia "to a certain extent," while 9 percent think there is "a minor threat" to Russia's national security interests.

At the same time, 14 percent are confident that NATO's enlargement to the east "would not threaten Russia at all."

Sixteen percent confessed that this issue did not concern them, while 30 percent admitted that they have not made up their mind yet.

The poll involved 1,541 people.

Dorenko Notes Alertness of Military in Moscow

LD3110184195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 2120 GMT on 30 October carries in its "Versions" program an 8-minute interview — live or recorded — with Valeriya Novodvorskaya of the Economic Freedom Party, conducted by anchorman Sergey Dorenko. Novodvoskaya says that the parliamentary elections must take place as scheduled because any delay would give rise to public outcry. She dismisses the results of sociological polls which suggest that the communists are gaining in popularity, saying the aim is to frighten people with the communist and Nazi plague, so that the current powers-that-be would seem the best option.

Dorenko, musing further on the "simple scheme" of the "good" powers-that-be defending democracy, in opposition to the "bad communists," adds: "It is hard to close one's eyes to the fact that there is what might be a better option, in the guise of the democratic opposition. They rather mess up the scheme by adding an extra link. But then, who actually knows these democrats? Perhaps they only talk about their peaceableness, but will go on to rehash everything. After all, Yavlinskiy himself talks about the injustice of privatization. If we now multiply this fear by the fear about the president's illness, we get fear compounded, to put it mathematically.

"Incidentally, in at least some of the military units in Moscow, officers have been ordered not to absent themselves even in their free time without reporting their whereabouts to the unit duty officers and their commander. I cannot remember how military men describe this level of alert, but it is certainly some sort of heightened alert. One gets the impression that many people have grasped that something is going to happen, only they do not know exactly when and how. All the best!"

Semyonov Denies More Military Units Sent to Moscow

LD3110175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Defense Ministry has not introduced "any special regime" in the army, Commander in Chief of Russian Land Forces Col. Gen. Vladimir Semyonov told INTERFAX Tuesday.

He categorically refuted mass media reports stating that officers are prohibited to leave their garrisons and to take leaves.

"The armed forces fulfill their tasks in their normal regime," Semyonov declared.

He also refuted reports that additional military units will be introduced in Moscow. "Such reports only worsen the situation surrounding the armed forces," Semyonov noted.

At the same time Semyonov reported that security measures will be strengthened, as it is usually done for the period of holidays.

In his words, Russia's military districts are now summing up the results of the summer training period.

Their final results are to be summed up at the Defense Ministry on November 15 in Moscow.

Investigation Into Dumping of 'Oka' Missile Urged

MM3110170795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Ptichkin: "Hole in Sky. And Hole in Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have reported the development of a new missile system in Russia. TV has carried a piece on the night launch of the latest operational-tactical missile.

Of course, it may not be apposite to talk about how difficult it was for this project to get going or that the success was preceded by several launch failures, or, finally, about how much this item will cost the Russian defense budget.

The Russian Armed Forces had the excellent "Oka" operational-tactical missile, which still has no equal to this day in any other army. The number and quality of these operational-tactical missiles was wholly in line with the new military doctrine and guaranteed the country's security. Naturally, missiles with a range of 400 km posed no threat to the United States, but for some reason they had to be destroyed under the treaty between the USSR and the United States. Although it was reported in the press that the treaty allegedly did not extend to the "Oka."

Newspapers have written a lot about the total absurdity of the demise of the "Oka" and, saddest of all, about the total destruction of the technological equipment needed to launch them. Every expert claimed that Russia will simply be forced to start developing another similar system in the future.

It seems as though everyone recognizes that the destruction of the "Oka" occurred under strange circumstances. So why should the military prosecutor's office not finally launch an investigation and respond to the question of how and by whom specifically the order was given to destroy the "Oka" missile systems and all their unique technology? Until the final chapter is closed on the full drama of the history of the demise of the "Oka," there is no reason, in my view, to rejoice over the emergence of a counterpart to it.

Government Increases Investment in Defense Conversion

LD3110192895 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Continuing with the subject of conversion, today we want to tell you about the state of affairs surrounding financing the transfer of the military industry to production of civilian output. An important matter. As we know, capital investment determines the success of any scheme. Over to Mayak observer Vladimir Pasko.

[Pasko] At the moment the Russian Government is preparing to endorse the state conversion program up to 1997. It is envisaged that over the next two years 11 trillion rubles [R] is to be allocated from budget and extra-budgetary sources for the organization of civilian output. Is that a lot or not? It is almost ten times the amount intended for the current program, which is coming to an end and which also spanned a two-year period. We have talked before about the reasons why the program has not fully achieved what was planned, but quite a lot has been achieved. This is what Sergey Sidorkov, deputy head of the defense industries department in the Russian Government, who is already known to our listeners, has to say.

[Begin Sidorkov recording] Let's take the Omsk engine association. An investment was made for the development of TVD-770 engines for new aircraft — the Tu-114, the Il-112, and the MiG-110. These are small-, medium-, and short-haul aircraft. Facilities have been built to produce 40 of these engines a year, or R23 billion worth at 1995 prices.

At Nizhniy Novgorod aircraft works, the capacity has been built to produce 15 Gzhel aircraft per annum. These are aircraft for local airlines, for short passenger journeys. There is also the state enterprise Izhevsk mechnical works. Money has been put in to produce rear axles and drive shafts for the Izh-2126 car, our famous car which is still in great public demand. This facility can now produce 170,000 axles, which before only produced military equipment.

Or let's take the munitions industry, of which so much has been said. Conversion is difficult here. At Biysk [word indistinct] works, a facility has been set up to produce 200,000 tonnes of rhodium sulphate per annum for the agro-industrial complex. That's R8 billion worth.

The entirety of conversion even includes the space industry. The [word indistinct] in Voronezh have set up facilities to produce 800 electric pumps, Christmas tree fittings for the fuel and power complex [as heard], and equipment for mini-workshops producing sausages. That's billions. The pumps are worth R28 billion, the fittings more than R2 billion, and 1 billion for the workshops.

In other words, even now we can say that the money which has been invested in the program, which was agreed with all the consumers and endorsed, is already producing a return directly at the factories. [end recording]

[Pasko] I'll say straight away that the R11 trillion which will be put into the defense industry in the next two years if the program is approved also has a specific target.

[Begin Sidorkov recording] First, it is for commissioning extra capacities to produce civilian goods — for transport, communications, the fuel and power complex, and the agro-industrial complex. A wide range of various consumer goods, R41 trillion worth at 1995 prices. It is planned to create more than 400,000 jobs for workers being made redundant from purely military facilities. Through this program, more than 400 aircraft of various types, around 100 helicopters, and more than 2,000 engines of various types for use in civilian industry will be produced. We will be building 960 ships and increasing the amount of medical equipment available by more than 10 percent. The most important thing is that we will be setting up production of goods that will be a substitute for imports equivalent to $4 million, which at the moment we have to buy but which we could produce for ourselves. [end recording]

[Pasko] The examples given by Sergey Sidorkov are interesting. They demonstrate that conversion here is being increasingly better targeted. We are not just talking about providing work for the military sector, but about getting rid of the worst aspects of the civilian sector, specifically providing the most up-to-date equipment, communications, transport, energy, medical industry, and so on. All in all, the appropriations focus on nine areas, but that is only one aspect. A second aspect is that a proportion of the money coming from extra-budgetary sources is increasing, for instance contributions from the enterprises themselves. These are increasing from around a third to a half. Of the R11 trillion envisaged, 5 trillion is coming from the producers themselves. This is a very important aspect, as you can imagine, and it could act as an incentive to make the defense industries adapt more quickly to serving the demands of the civilian sector. After all, nobody is going to invest money in something that is not in demand.

[Announcer] This is indeed an interesting aspect, talking about consumer goods here. This demonstrates how conversion is becoming an increasingly integral part of the reforms taking place in the country. Thanks to my colleague, observer Vladimir Pasko. We will be returning to this topic.

Zenit-2 Booster Puts Kosmos Satellite Into Orbit

*LD0111124795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1102 GMT 1 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — Russia launched a Zenit-2 booster missile with a Kosmos satellite at Baykonur, Kazakhstan, at 23:19, Tuesday, Moscow time.

The space satellite will be put into low orbit in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry, the press service of the federal Space Force told INTERFAX.

No more Zenit boosters were launched in 1995.

The two-stage Zenit-2 booster missile operates on liquid oxygen and kerosene and is believed to present no threat to the environment. Designers under Vladimir Utkin started working on it in the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk in 1987.

Also in 1987 Zenit-2 was adopted by the Space Force.

As many as 14 Zenit-2 launchings have taken place. Two of them ended in a failure.

The Yuzhnyy machinebuilding plant of Dnepropetrovsk turns out four to five 23 billion ruble Zenits a year. Sixty three percent of the details are made in Russia.

Parameters of Kosmos-2322 Detailed

LD0111093095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 1 (ITAR-TASS) — The military satellite Kosmos-2322 was put into orbit by the Russian Space Forces on Wednesday, ITAR-TASS learnt from the RSF press centre.

The satellite hurtles round the earth with the following parameters: revolution period — 101.97 minutes, orbital inclination — 71.01 decrees, apogee — 877.89 kilometers and perigee — 851.85 kilometers.

The spacecraft was fired off by the Zenit-2 booster rocket from the Baykonur cosmodrome.

Federal Assembly

Commission Forecasts 1.9 Percent Inflation in 1996

MK3110145295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Conciliation Commission Has Found a Compromise Version of the Inflation Forecast. Recalling Interests of Federation Components, Senators Have Changed Their Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday a conciliation commission on the budget arrived at a compromise option for the 1996 inflation forecast. Before the session started, the commission members were handed a comparative table of macroeconomic parameters, drafted by the Finance Ministry, for the 1996 budget, with a monthly inflation average of 1.2-3 percent. According to the table, at a 1.8 percent inflation rate, the budget deficit would grow from 81.8 to 246.9 trillion rubles [R], and that, respectively, would necessitate obtaining credits from the Central Bank (which is prohibited by law) to the value of R477.5 trillion. That considerable growth in the budget deficit, the government spokesmen explained, is connected, in particular, with a lack of external sources to cover the budget deficit (given these budget parameters, the IMF loan will not be issued to Russia), and with far greater spending needed to finance the external debt.

These dire calculations must have served as the final and most convincing argument in favor of the 1.5-1.7 percent inflation rate proposed by the government. However, these calculations failed to convince anyone. The senators and deputies put forward their counterarguments, guided not just by economic, but also by political considerations. The most inventive was the proposal made by Sergey Glazyev, the head of the Economic Policy Committee, one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities. Calling on commission members not to mislead themselves and to acknowledge the unrealistic nature of the government's forecast, Mr. Glazyev proposed that a "tough but honest option" be considered: A zero-deficit budget with a monthly inflation average of 3 percent. Following from his calculations, an increase in the inflation rate automatically brings about R20 trillion of additional revenues, and on condition of giving up Central Bank's credits, this plan could be approved by the IMF. According to Budget Committee Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Pochinok ("Russia's Choice"), Sergey Glazyev's conjectures "nice, as they are, suffer from too much hypothesizing," and, therefore, attempts to budget for higher inflation, with these revenues lacking, will only result in inevitably resorting to the Central Bank and fueling inflation.

Budget Committee Chairman Mikhail Zadornov ("Yabloko") proposed that 2.2-2.5 percent be assumed in the forecast, saying that while determining the budget parameters, the decisive factor must not be the IMF stand, to which the government constantly appeals, but the opinion of the deputies, who voted for finalizing the draft budget.

In the end, five options of the inflation forecast were put to a vote, and following a train of straw polls and rigid votes, the conciliation commission decided on the 1.9 percent parameter. Apart from one more concession on behalf of the government (Anatoliy Chubays had set this as the upper limit for the retreat as far back as Friday [27 October]), the change in the senators' position was also amazing: They were unanimous in voting for 3 percent on Thursday, and on Monday, with no less unanimity, they voted for the 1.5-1.7 percent rate. As the chairman of the Federation Council Budget Committee, Nikolay Gonchar, explained to your SEGODNYA correspondent, raising inflation implies growth in federal budget resources, whereas pulling the resources into the federal budget lessens the tax base of the Federation components' budgets, and, respectively, lessens provincial budget revenues. In his words, realization of this fact made the senators change their stand on the inflation forecast.

Government, Duma Disagree on Privatization Revenues

MK3110145395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "State Property Committee Feels Sure It Will Receive 11.4 Trillion Rubles as

Privatization Revenues. The Deputies Feel More Than Skeptical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the conciliation committee on the budget considered the question of 1996 privatization revenues. According to Alfred Kokh, acting head of the State Property Committee [GKI], the revenues will total 11.4 trillion rubles, of which 5.6 trillion are expected to come from selling shares of oil and gas companies and 5.8 trillion more to be received from selling state-owned shares in banks and insurance companies. Mr. Kokh gave his assurances that the GKI's plans were based on comprehensive marketing research. He also said that only those state-owned shares would be sold which cease being state property in 1996. The market situation has also been taken into account: For instance, only 5 percent of LUKoil's block of shares are planned to be sold, because the stock market is saturated with the company's shares.

In the opinion of Sergey Burkov, chairman of the [State Duma] Committee for Ownership, Privatization, and Economic Activity and a Congress of Russian Communities leader, the GKI's arguments regarding 1996 privatization revenues are even less convincing than those given when the 1995 budget was being approved. Mr. Burkov suggested that privatization revenues be withdrawn from the revenue component of the budget, so that the income received could be used to cover the budget deficit. Furthermore, in his opinion, the list of the blocks of shares to be sold in 1996 should be approved legislatively.

Similar proposals, made by Budget Committee Chairman Mikhail Zadornov and Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the Committee for Economic Policy, were supported by voting in both chambers. A corresponding decision, however, failed to be passed because of a markedly negative stance by government officials. Incidentally, in a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent, Sergey Burkov has said that, unless his proposal on the withdrawal of privatization revenues from the revenue component of the budget is finally passed, he will urge his fellow deputies to vote against the 1996 budget.

Kokoshin Wants '5 or 6 Percent of GDP' for Defense

MK3110081395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[INTERFAX-SEGODNYA report: "Andrey Kokoshin Has Called on Deputies To Earmark Finances for Creating 'Weapons of the Future'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, speaking before the State Duma deputies at the closed plenary session, called on them "to remedy the problem of the insufficient level of outlays for defense." In Mr. Kokoshin's words, to provide decent conditions for the Army and to "save Russia's defense industry," military spending, taking into consideration the present inflation rate, must amount to no less than 5 or 6 percent of GDP (current spending is slightly over 3 percent). Mr. Kokoshin said that many developed countries have halted the process of cutting outlays on defense and switched to boosting their military spending. According to Andrey Kokoshin, the main thrust of international competition lies now in the sphere of creating the weapons of the future. The deputy defense minister is confident that Russia has sufficient research and production potential at its disposal to take a proper place among the leading world powers in this sphere. However, only adequate financing will make it possible to retain the technical potential to produce weaponry that is unique in world practice. Andrey Kokoshin also drew the deputies' attention to the fact that up to 70 percent of defense expenditure is now accounted for by the social sphere. "We have military stations where three-fourths of the residents are pensioners. If financial backing for social spending in the Army and Navy should cease, they are doomed to die," Mr. Kokoshin charged.

Duma Opposes Plan To Keep Voting Results From Observers

MK3110080095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report: "Duma Concerned Over Central Electoral Commission's Intentions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lower chamber deputies passed a decision by 243 votes at yesterday's meeting to send a request to the Central Electoral Commission inquiring about incoming reports regarding the commission's plans to prohibit copies of documents with official results of vote counting from being handed to representatives of public organizations after the elections end. In the deputies' view, such a decision could infringe on the freedom of the parliamentary elections. In another development, yesterday's Duma meeting rejected on the first reading the draft law "On Public Control Over the Conduct of Elections and Referendums and on Transparency and Openness in Summing Up the Results of the Vote." Anatoliy Lukyanov, who introduced the draft law, while calling on the deputies to back it, agreed with its opponents that changing the established "rules of the game" on the eve of the elections is senseless.

Regional Affairs

Kulikov: Time To Begin Talks

LD3110154795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov voiced his attitude to the present situation in Chechnya. Ending his working visit to Rostov region, the minister held a news conference.

[Begin Kulikov recording] The situation in Chechnya is not simple. I think it is now taking on a different qualitative condition with the arrival of the new leader Doku Abdullovich Zavgayev, and in this connection I could voice my point of view as follows:

It seems to me that the time has come when the question of the further political development of the republic should be discussed with Zavgayev's government.

The restoration of the constitutional structure and the restoration of the legitimate authority, which existed under the criminal regime of Dudayev should be considered as disbanded.

It should be seen that this moment is already coming and questions connected... [pauses] and all these political conversations with the Dudayev side should be ended.

The talk of the disarmament of the illegal formations should be conducted in the framework of the Special Observer Commission and again not with Yarikhanov [head of Dudayev delegation at Groznyy talks] and Zakayev [field commander] but now just with the field commanders. [end recording]

Kulikov Cites 'Harsher Measures'

LD3110220395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast by announcer Tatyana Sorokina]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today's sitting of the Special Observer Commission in Groznyy did not take place because Aleksandr Vlasenkov, deputy commander of the Russian Defense Ministry troops in Chechnya, did not turn up.

Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov took a very harsh stand today on the question of continuation of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

[Begin Kulikov recording] As for the irreconcilable commanders who will not be persuaded and are ready to sacrifice the last Chechen, harsher measures should be used against them — all types of weapons, including the air force. [end recording]

Zorin on Reasons For Talks Standoff

LD3110194095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — The unsolved issue of the location of the Special Observer Commission is the main obstacle for resuming its meetings, the acting head of Russian civilian administration in Chechnya, Vladimir Zorin, told INTERFAX Tuesday.

It is inexpedient to continue talks on political issues, if the commission does not oversee the military accord, Zorin said.

The commission had been suspended after the October 6 terrorist attack on the former Russian troop commander in Chechnya, commission co-chairman Lt. Gen. Anatoliy Romanov.

Russia conditioned the resumption of talks to their relocation outside Groznyy, but pro-Dudayev rebels opposed this.

In turn, pro-Dudayev rebels demanded U.N. peacekeepers be deployed in the republic following the air strike on the village Roshni-Chu.

Zorin supposed the two sides could work on the agenda of the future talks, while the talks and the commission are at a standstill.

The two sides could define the basic principles of relations between the federal center and Chechnya, Zorin suggested. Much attention should be paid to such an important issue as the terminology of Chechnya's status and the date of the future elections in the republic.

Zorin is convinced that "Chechen figures of much authority" such as Chechen Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev, National Accord Committee Chairman Lecha Magomadov and former Russian parliamentary chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov should join the development of the main documents.

Council Elects Gantemirov, Arbiyev

LD0111101395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0848 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 1 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The Supreme Council session of the Chechen Republic held today in Groznyy examined only appointments. Sanakiy Arbiyev has been endorsed as the first deputy head of the Chechen Government of National Rebirth, and Beslan Gantemirov, former Groznyy mayor, has been endorsed as the deputy chairman. Thus, the election of Gantemirov as Doku Zavgayev's deputy has ended the rumors that were circulating in the republic concerning a seeming confrontation between the two well-known Chechen leaders.

Prior to the opening of the session, Mamed Osmayev, acting chairman of the Chechen Supreme Council, told ITAR-TASS that besides personnel issues, it was planned to discuss problems of preparing a legislative basis for the forthcoming elections in Chechnya. However, the session participants had put only one question on the agenda.

Doku Zavgayev was endorsed as the head of the Chechen government on 24 October.

Zavgayev: Local Elections 'Impossible'

LD3110144795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Chechen government Doku Zavgayev thinks it impossible to hold local elections in Chechnya before the restoration of the economy.

He told INTERFAX Tuesday it is immoral to hold elections when many people are living in basements of destroyed houses without electricity or heating.

Elections were originally scheduled for December 17.

Zavgayev said that during his Moscow meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin last week they agreed on a draft program for restoring the Chechen economy in 1996. He said the program would be approved in seven to ten days time at a Chechen cabinet session.

Zavgayev Denies Heading Republic

LD0111120295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 1 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Doku Zavgayev was approved as head of the government of Chechnya on 24 October and his status has not changed since. Reports in some of the media that he had become the "head of the Republic" as a result of today's session of Chechnya's Supreme Council are untrue. ITAR-TASS was told this by Doku Zavgayev's press service. According to staff there, there is no such post as "head of the republic" in Chechnya.

Meszaros' Replacement Airs Views

LD3110224995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission was appointed in Groznyy on 31 October. He is Olivier Pelen. Our correspondent Marina Chernukha reports over the phone.

[Chernukha] In an interview with your correspondent, he said that he will continue the political course of his predecessor Sandor Meszaros. In the opinion of Olivier Pelen, the implementation of the agreements on military issues will not be able to solve all of Chechnya's problems. Olivier Pelen spoke in favor of a multilateral dialogue to resolve the Chechen conflict. Not just representatives of the federal authorities but also those of Dudayev and also all the real political forces of Chechnya should take part in the negotiations.

The new head of the OSCE mission also did not rule out that the Chechen problem may be resolved after a personal meeting between Dzhokhar Dudayev and the leaders of the real political forces in Chechnya with the participation of the plenipotentiary representatives of the federal powers. It is our wish that the people who feel the need to hold a meeting should be able to start a dialogue, Olivier Pelen said. In his opinion this dialogue can be started at an unofficial, consultative level.

Answering a question from your correspondent whether there is an accord with Dzhokhar Dudayev about the beginning of such a dialogue, Olivier Pelen said that they are simply his thoughts. It would be very useful to find common points of agreement. There are various possibilities for resolving the crisis in Chechnya. They should all be used. First of all, holding free democratic elections would alone provide the opportunity to create a new legitimate power in Chechnya.

Spokesman Views OSCE Status

LD3110212195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Moscow believes that the question of granting Chechnya a status similar to Russia's in the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] is far-fetched and not serious.

"Membership in the OSCE can be granted only to states, not constituent members of a country," Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for European Cooperation Yuriy Ushakov told INTERFAX Tuesday, commenting on the demand for granting Chechnya a status similar to Russia's in the OSCE by leader of the Dudayev delegation Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov.

Neither will the OSCE allow the Dudayev delegation to speak at the OSCE headquarters on the situation in Chechnya, said Ushakov.

"Only representatives of national governments have the right to speak at sessions of the OSCE's Permanent Council," he said.

This circumstance rules out OSCE participation by the Dudayev separatists, although they might be specially invited to informal seminars, he added.

"The OSCE is an interstate organization. Russia has its representative in it, who is doing a good job and does not need any assistance," said Ushakov.

Federal Police To Patrol Groznyy

LD3010152395 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Starting from today, the federal Chechen police will be engaged in the 24-hour patrolling of Groznyy. This has been said at a news conference in Groznyy by Leonid Shiryaev, the deputy head of the territorial directorate of the federal bodies of executive power in Chechnya and a major general of the interior Ministry,.

Nuclear Backpack Story Seen as 'Bluff'

MK0111100195 Moscow ZAVTRA in Russian No. 43, Oct 95 p 1 (Signed to press 24 Oct 95)

[Unattributed "Den" Security Service article: "Is There a Backpack Nuclear Bomb?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have already reported that, following his publication on the possible theft by Dudayevites of backpack nuclear weapons, ZAVTRA correspondent Vladislav Shurygin was attacked and cruelly beaten up.

An analysis of the incident makes us think that the publication and the attack that followed are connected with the talks between Dudayev and the federal center. The talks brought about by terrorist Basayev after the seizure of Budennovsk have broken Russia's military will and are being conducted by Dudayev's side from the position of strength and accompanied by constant threats to repeat terrorist acts in Moscow using nuclear weapons.

The material given to Shurygin could have belonged to Dudayev's propaganda department, which is carrying out a special project to suppress Russian public opinion so as to bring pressure to bear on the Kremlin and force it into concessions in the talks, as well as to justify Chernomyrdin's peacekeeping and his not quite clear links with Dudayev. The journalist was most likely beaten up by the same Chechen forces to enhance the effect of the publication and attract to it public attention.

Competent FSB [Federal Security Service] services investigating the incident maintain that the story about two backpack nuclear weapons was a bluff because such weapons simply do not exist, and the Russian armed forces have never been armed with them. However, other sources close to the newspaper deny this claim and say that the Soviet Army did have such weapons in special units, subversion groups, fleets, [military] districts, and groups of forces. They were designed to destroy ports, bridges, and military facilities. Before the USSR's disintegration, when instability in society began to spill over to the military, these weapons were withdrawn from special units and stored in an underground arsenal with reliable protection, which provided for total flooding in case of danger.

The same sources, while ruling out the chance that the weapons may be stolen from the arsenal, do not rule out that their elements may have been stolen from manufacturing plants, which have retained the assembly techniques after having been mothballed. It is the plants, the manufacturing lines, and their civilian personnel that are a vulnerable link that Chechen emissaries could have targeted in a bid to arm Dudayev with the latest weapons.

Agreeing on the whole that the information launched via ZAVTRA is a bluff, we, nonetheless, continue to attract the attention of the Russian military and the intelligence service to this acute and dangerous problem.

Rebels Said Inciting Civilian March

LD3110193695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Russian military sources have said Moslem religious "emissaries" sent by the Chechen rebel leadership are currently inciting the population of villages around the Chechen capital to start a "holy war march" in the city.

The march is being planned for the beginning of November, the sources told INTERFAX.

They said the Russian military saw this as an attempt "to organize a provocation, to engineer carnage among civilians and put the blame for the consequences on federal troops."

Dudayevites Launch 'Underground TV'

LD3110152495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — On Monday night, shortly before the beginning of the Vremya TV news programme, programmes of Groznyy TV were interrupted, and "underground TV" broke in.

The topics, chosen by it, make it clear that it is the pro-Dudayev forces which are behind it. The underground TV programme featured gunmen, punished for the violation of sharia laws. Authors of the programme intended, by all appearances, to demonstrate high morale of illegal armed groups.

"Underground TV" does not stop short of open misinformation. For example, the programme told about an armed clash between the guards of two senior officials — Chairman of the Chechen government Doku Zavgayev and Groznyy Mayor Beslan Gantemirov. TASS was told at the joint chiefs of staff of the Russian Interior Ministry in Chechnya that no such incidents had taken place.

In the opinion of specialists, the unsanctioned TV broadcasting can be done only with highly sophisticated equipment.

Moscow Privatization Progress, Problems Aired

MM0111101595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Senatorov: "Moscow Completes 'Small-Scale' Privatization and Switches to Profitable Privatization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a press conference given by the Moscow Property Fund on Friday 27 October, Fund Chairman Mechislav Klimovich spoke of the "pluses" and "minuses" inherent in the privatization model adopted by the capital throughout 1994 and the first nine months of this year and said that "a solution to all our problems is only possible if all the structures which administer the city's land and property efficiently coordinate their joint efforts."

In the opinion of the head of the Property Fund, "small-scale" privatization in the capital is basically complete because "virtually all Moscow government decisions relating to the mandatory privatization of enterprises in services and the consumer market have been implemented." The figures cited at the press conference were impressive. Thanks to the Moscow privatization model (although there is now talk of improving it), a total of 920 billion rubles [R] in revenue was generated from the sale of state and municipal property last year and in the first nine months of this year. A further R1.125 trillion was obtained from the sale of leasehold premises to commercial structures. The city budget is expected to receive another R210 billion from privatization in the fourth quarter of this year.

It should be pointed out that the Property Fund acts as a specialized financial institution in the Moscow government's privatization strategy, coming into play in the final stages of privatization. The departments and prefectures implement the strategy of the Moscow Committee for the Management of State Property.

M. Klimovich reported that during the aforementioned period the Property Fund drew up 6,240 agreements on the sale of leasehold property (mainly commercial premises) to privatized enterprises for a total of R657 billion. At present, one square meter costs a privatized enterprise an average of R1.7 million.

At the same time, as stressed at the press conference, since the Moscow government's famous decree in May this year, which sharply raised prices, sales have fallen off considerably: The Fund now concludes between 20 and 30 agreements per month. The situation has become radically different: It is no longer the buyer who seeks out the Property Fund, but the Fund which chases the client, trying to persuade him that a deal is lucrative.

At present, only 5 percent of clients are prepared to buy the nonresidential premises they lease. Furthermore, despite the various purchase schemes offered by the Property Fund, 95 percent of enterprises where labor collectives are the major shareholders still refrain from taking this step.

The main conclusion which can be drawn is that the chairman of the Property Fund is firmly resolved to conclude the preferential sale of property to privatized enterprises and switch to new conditions of sale in 1996, that is, at market prices. Mechislav Klimovich believes that, in order for this to happen, the city Duma and Moscow government "will have to amend the Statute on the Procedure for the Sale of Nonresidential Premises in favor of auctions and investment contracts." This new stage in the privatization program must begin on 1 January 1996 if enterprises do not buy the premises before 31 December.

According to various speakers, the sale of unfinished buildings is also promising. Data provided by the Property Fund and the General Plan Scientific Research and Planning Institute indicates that long-running building projects in Moscow cover a total area of 14 million square meters (86 percent is federal property; industrial installations account for approximately 50 percent). In the aforementioned 21 month period, trade in unfinished buildings gave the budget R327.5 billion. A specific feature of this approach is that the new owner must simultaneously act as investor.

Ingush President Calls For Restoration of 'Order'

*LD3110130995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1216 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[By Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Ingush president Ruslan Aushev has called upon the population to restore order in the republic on the occasion of the third anniversary of the beginning of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. Aushev cautioned the Ingush people against being involved in provocations which might lead to a new conflict.

In his address, the Ingush president mentioned not only events of three years ago, but an incident at the "Ingushetia" airport on October 24, when one Ingush was killed and four others injured. Another tragic event mentioned by Aushev was an assassination of four Russian border guards who were shot dead from an ambush on the territory of Ingushetia a few days ago.

The Ingush president said that these actions were aimed at involving Ingushetia into an area of combat operations and unleashing a major war in the South of Russia. According to the Ingush president, forces interested in building up tension have stepped up their activities following the Russian president's demand to restore order in the republic in the shortest possible time and ensure the return of forcibly resettled people to their homes.

The Ingush president has called on the Ingush population to render all possible assistance to law enforcement bodies to restore order in the republic.

Tatarstan, Turkey Agree to Parliamentary Contacts

*LD3110144295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1315 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[By Andrey Palariya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ANKARA, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Tatarstan and Turkey have agreed to develop inter-parliamentary contacts under a Protocol on Cooperation between the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, which has been concluded during the visit of Tatarstan Parliament Chief Vassiliy Likhachev to Ankara. The visit ended on Tuesday.

Cooperation between the top legislatures of the two countries covers exchanges of experience in lawmaking activities, the texts of promulgated laws, and the development of contacts between the parliamentarians of Turkey and Tatarstan which is a subject of the Russian Federation.

Orenburg Governor Welcomes Upcoming Election

*MM3110164995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 2*

[Report by Valeriy Vedernikov: "Gubernatorial Elections Will Be Conducted Without Pomp"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Orenburg — Orenburg Oblast is one of the regions where gubernatorial elections will be held side by side with elections to the State Duma. It may seem strange, but Vladimir Yelagin, head of Orenburg Oblast Administration himself, was first and foremost impatiently awaiting such a turn of events.

After all, it was he who initiated the process of the oblast joining the chosen few. Admittedly, Vladimir Vasilyevich's opponents and ill-wishers have been trumpeting the idea that he is playing a subtle political game: In his words he is in favor of elections, but in actual fact he is in favor of an appointment. The president's edict has dotted the i's and crossed the t's.

Of course, if you look at this in an unbiased way, though you can reproach Yelagin for some things, it is hard to reproach him for insincerity. Appointed as head of the executive by Boris Yeltsin exactly four years ago, he has not avoided mistakes and incorrect assessments and steps during his rule, of course. He does not hide this, and speaks about them honestly. But all his actions have been channeled into achieving stability. On one of his trips to the Orenburg area, Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking about V. Yelagin, noted the latter has developed significantly as a leader.

Following the emergence of the president's edict, V. Yelagin held a briefing for journalists. The three pluses of the upcoming elections, in his view, are as follows. First of all, the endless talks about the illegitimacy of executive power in the localities will come to an end. Second, there will be a decrease in the ardor of the "independent experts," who consider it their duty to "move up" the boss when ratings are being put together. Third, an elected head of the executive will have far more possibilities for defending the region's interests at federal level.

When asked by your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent who he views as his main rival in the fight for the governorship, V. Yelagin said that Gennadiy Pavlovich Donkovtsev, currently Orenburg mayor, is a worthy contender. That is irrespective of the fact that despite outward decorum, relations between the two buildings (the oblast administration and the city administration) are complex, to put it mildly.

It has already been said that a heap of funds will have to be spent on the gubernatorial elections, some of them...from the wages of teachers. From what Yelagin said, this is an absurdity. A sum in the region of 600 million has been determined (for the sake of comparison: 8-9 billion rubles will be spent on elections to the State Duma in the oblast). The governor said the following about his electoral fund: "I am opposed to all colorful placards, and other such ostentation, and in fact any pageantry whatsoever."

Altay Farmers 'In No Hurry' To Sell Grain

MM3110141495 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Ivan Semykin: "Money in the Morning, Grain in the Evening"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Altay Kray — The grain harvest in Altay has been concluded on time, but the harvest has not reached the kray agriculturalists' expectations. The reasons were the plowing in the spring rather than the fall of most of the areas sown to grain, the lack of mineral fertilizers and herbicides for fighting weeds, and the shortage of harvesting equipment. In all, 10.3 quintals of grain per hectare were threshed in the kray. The gross harvest came to over 3.6 million tonnes. Procurement of grain is still proceeding slowly.

"We have to supply 1,014,000 tonnes of grain to the federal fund," Aleksey Kuleshov, leader of the Altay Food Corporation, said, "including 800,000 tonnes of food wheat and 50,000 tonnes each of rye, oats, buckwheat, and peas. There will be no problem with food rye and oats, but there are huge problems with the other crops. So far around 50,000 tonnes of grain have been received into the federal food fund. Things are no better in the regional fund — of the scheduled 250,000 tonnes, only 13,000 have been procured."

So the Altay granaries are empty today. Farms have grain. But they are in no hurry to sell it rashly. They are not in a hurry because they are afraid they will be deceived again. "The advance payment for 25-30 percent of the contracted grain is no reason to give the grain to the state rather than anyone else," chiefs of Altay farms believe. "First of all we want the money, and then they can have our grain. If the state does not make haste to settle accounts in full with the farmers, and the grain will go wherever convenient via commercial structures."

There are today a great many customers traveling to Altay from neighboring Siberian regions, incidentally. The farms desperately need cash. Businessmen have it, and so the grain will be sold to them.

Economic Issues

Reactions to Business Charter Proposal Noted

MM3110154195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (Saturday Edition) in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Yelena Ishkova: "Business Charter — a Marriage Contract With the State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The problem of crime in the business sphere is so large, pervasive, and dangerous that it has to be tackled not only by the state, but also by independent business structures." That was Anatoliy Chubays' reaction to the idea of adopting a Russian Business Charter. He believes that it is not immaterial to the state, when selecting bankers or entrepreneurs as business partners, what kind of entrepreneurs they are and whether they belong to an association that enjoys prestige. The idea of the charter was put forward, as is well known, by members of the Russian business "Round Table" and the plan for this future "code of honor" is currently under discussion among politicians, entrepreneurs, deputies, and state officials. There have been many responses.

Chubays' reaction was followed by the response of V. Prokhorov, chairman of the State Committee for Support and Development of Small Business. His proposal was quite specific: Entrepreneurs breaching the charter would not only forfeit the trust of their fellow businessmen, but would also lose state privileges and guarantees when it comes to the issuing of credits.

Anyone not signing the charter, State Duma Deputy Irina Khakamada believes, will feel he is a "marked man." But there is the fear that the charter will be a lame declaration. Business has been placed by an absurd tax policy in a situation where it cannot be honest. It has either to reveal more than 100-percent profit or to avoid taxes.

How can this situation be resolved? Most of those who already back the idea of a Business Charter believe that it should be signed by state structures as well as by entrepreneurs. But few officials and legislators said anything more concrete than general words of support and approval.

Government, Trade Unions Create Wage Task Force

MK3110133995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Trade Unions and the Government Will Agree on Wages Later"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and trade unions have failed to come to an agreement on wages at a routine meeting between [First] Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays and Mikhail Shmakov, leader of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. Mr. Chubays insisted that the government's decree abolishing privileges with respect to the procedure for distributing enterprise incomes should be brought into force on 1 November. According to the first deputy premier, because of the privileges, "20 trillion rubles have been withdrawn" from the revenue component of the budget. Mr. Shmakov, on the contrary, insisted on having the privileges retained, arguing that the "new method" — to reserve 20 percent of revenues in November; 10 percent in December; and 5 percent from January on — can only aggravate wage arrears, which, according to the trade union leader, presently amount to 10 trillion rubles. The sides agreed to set up a task force to have these differences settled.

Government Agrees to 1.7 Percent Inflation in 1996

MK3110083295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "The Government Has Announced That the Permissible Limit of Monthly Inflation Is 1.7 Percent. Anatoliy Chubays Has Uncovered an 'Organized Group' of Deputies Obstructing Adoption of the Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays said during a break at the conference on "Means of Russian Economic Development in 1995-1997" that the government would not agree to introduce in the draft 1996 budget an inflation rate of 3-5 percent, as State Duma deputies keep insisting.

In his words, the level of inflation acceptable to the government is 1.7-1.9 percent per month (the government's draft proposes 1.2 percent). The first deputy premier feels confident that such figures are feasible. As proof, he gave the "steady and stable" decline in the monthly inflation rate this year. The first deputy premier considers the assets of the draft to be a certain increase in social expenditures planned for the next year, and the funding of the budget deficit from noninflationary sources.

At the same time, he said that there is an "organized group" of deputies in the parliament striving to torpedo the adoption of the budget this year. Among other hazards, the first deputy mentioned the intention of some Duma factions to gain political capital from the draft budget discussions. This notwithstanding, Mr. Chubays said that the government was ready for compromises with the deputies and was looking forward to "a favorable outcome of the budget-related debates."

Commission Plugs Loophole for Nonpayment of Taxes

MM0111094595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 pp 1-4

[Report by Aleksandr Linkov: "Why Treasury Is Suffering. Tax Revenue Shortfall to Russian Budget Exceeds 50 Trillion Rubles. Government To Stop 'Leaks'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a recent session of the commission on nonpayments chaired by First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, there was a serious discussion with enterprise leaders who owe sizable sums to the budget. Those who have "distinguished themselves" include the "Yuganskneftegaz" Open-Type Joint-Stock Company, the "LUKoyllangepasneftegaz" Open-Type Joint-Stock Company, the "Noyabrskneftegaz" Joint-Stock Company, the Irkutsk Administration of the East Siberia Railroad, the Gorkiy Railroad, "AvtoVAZ," the "GAZ" Joint-Stock Company, and others. The record-holder is the "Nizhnevartovskneftegaz" Open-Type Joint-Stock Company, which owes more than 1 trillion rubles [R].

The tone of the discussion at the session was pretty severe. The leaders were warned that the strictest measures — up to and including dismissal — will henceforth be taken regarding violators. This determination on the government's part is entirely understandable. As Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov announced at a press conference recently, the shortfall on tax payments to the Russian budget currently comes to the impressive figure of more than R50 trillion.

The main reason for this gigantic debt, Finance Ministry specialists believe, is the existing procedure for setting aside a certain proportion of revenue for salaries and other urgent needs. Some 30-50 percent of the money has been used in this area. This "loophole" also accounts for the lion's share of all state treasury shortfalls.

The adopted decree substantially closes off enterprises' ability to avoid payments to the budget. The percentage of deductions for wages and other urgent needs is reduced. Executive organs in Federation components are given the right to determine what proportion of their revenues organizations are entitled to set aside. This decision is linked above all to the fact that local budgets are suffering most from the failure to pay taxes. After all, most tax revenue is spent in the regions. These funds are used to finance health care, culture, and public education.

Russian Federation component executives are now also being given the right to apply sanctions against deliberate tax defaulters. The temporary procedure for the utilization of funds could be abolished for them. In that event they would be able to set aside for wages and other urgent needs only 5 percent of the funds entering their current accounts.

Incidentally, as of January next year, it is planned to abolish enterprises' right to set aside funds in this way. This right will be granted only in exceptional cases.

Aircraft Building Industry Faces 'Total Collapse'

LD0111091095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0831 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By Yevgeniy Nikitin and Nikolay Novichkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 1 (ITAR-TASS) — A vast market of air transportations inherited by Russia and the CIS countries from the former Soviet Union has been steadily disintegrating, which creates prerequisites for total collapse of the Russian aircraft building industry. This opinion was expressed by Valentin Klimov, director general of the Tupolev Aircraft Technical-Scientific Center, and Director-General of the largest aircraft building enterprise "Aviastar", Viktor Mikhaylov.

The two aircraft experts said that the commercial aircraft operating today numbers 4,155. The overall cost of this aircraft being replaced by a new one has been put down at 40-60 billion dollars. However, under conditions when production rates of Russia's new aircraft are critically declining with a number of structures deliberately impeding the development of the domestic aircraft industry, the prospect of Russia's reserving its aircraft market seems rather problematic.

Managers of the Tupolev Aircraft Scientific Centre believe that now that budgetary allocations envisaged by the 1995 draft budget for optional support of Russia's aircraft industry and civil aviation have been withdrawn, a possibility of the restoration of the destroyed internal market of civil aircraft by means of leasing new competitive domestic aircraft has been practically eliminated.

The aircraft experts said that the draft federal budget for 1996 does not inspire any particular optimism as far as the fate of the domestic aircraft building is concerned. A total of 1,2 trillion roubles are needed for the purchase of TU-204 planes only, while the overall funds envisaged by the 1996 draft budget to be invested into the aircraft building industry on terms of repayment and distribution on a competitive basis, amount to two trillion roubles. This creates realistic conditions when any Russian airline company will prefer to lease foreign aircraft on rather advantageous terms. This practice will lead to the full collapse of the domestic aircraft building industry, and Russian airline companies, in the best case, will sell out their airlines to Western entrepreneurs in the next five years.

In an interview with BUSINESS-TASS Mikhaylov said that by opening the way for the Western aircraft to the Russian market, certain forces are exerting pressure on the Interstate Aviation Committee, demanding the "most favoured entry regime" for any kind of Western aircraft. In order to certify the new aircraft these forces suggested to create Russia's avia-register. However, Klimov stressed that the creation of Russia's avia-register would inevitably destroy the single system of certification in the CIS and a common normative basis for the service life of the civil aircraft. This runs contrary to Russia's interests, taking into account deep integration between aircraft building industries of the CIS countries and traditional domestic markets, Klimov added.

Proceeding from the assumption that the civil aircraft building is one of the main components of the military and industrial sector, one can easily see that in the next few years the idea of the " defence capacity of the country" might be transferred to a category of purely theoretical postulates, the experts warned.

$150 Million From Japan Will Modernize KAMAZ

LD3110101295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Vyacheslav Bantin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Export-Import Bank of Japan has decided to grant to Russia a 150-million-dollar loan for the modernization of the KAMAZ automobile works, a spokesman for the bank told TASS today. According to the bank official, an official agreement about it will be signed within the coming several days.

The signing of the agreement on KAMAZ will be the last step in the creation of a legal framework for granting to Russia a package of industrial loans, whose total amount is 400 million dollars. An agreement in principle on the granting of the loan package by Tokyo was reached last November during a visit to Japan of Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. Under the agreement, an official document was signed by the two countries in May on the granting by the Export-Import Bank of Japan of 50 million dollars to the Impulse plant in St. Petersburg, and in October another document was signed — on the granting of 200 million dollars to the Yaroslavl oil refinery.

According to the Japanese press, the signing of the agreements was delayed, because Moscow did not manage to prepare promptly the documents on government guarantees for the loans to the KAMAZ automobile works and the Yaroslavl oil refinery.

Another agreement in principle was reached during the visit of Soskovets — on the granting by Japan of an additional industrial loan, using the 500-million-dollar humanitarian loan, which was announced, but not put into effect. Talks on it will be started soon between the Export-Import Bank of Japan and Russian officials, the bank's official told TASS.

According to the bilateral agreement, the money from the 400-million-dollar package of loans will be spent on purchasing from Japan production equipment for the three Russian industrial enterprises. Neither the bank spokesman, nor representatives of the Kanemazu trade firm, which will be the main coordinator of operations for using the loan package, could say when the shipment of the equipment would be started. The Kanemazu representative said that the deliveries of production equipment to Russia would take two years.

Bank Incentives Will Likely Fund Grain Purchases

MM0111104195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "How Are We To Bake Bread That Is Cheap for Customers and the Budget?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk has said that there can be no question of any grain imports to Russia until grain from our own producers has been bought.

An impeccable position on one condition — that there is something to buy. Regrettably, according to the minister himself, this year Russia has brought in one of the smallest harvests in the last few decades — 65-66 million tonnes. Last year the harvest was also considered low, but it totaled 81.3 million tonnes. This year the grain harvest is over one-third lower — 37 percent — than the 1986-1990 average. But the Russian agriculture minister thinks that, despite the overall grain shortage, Russia has brought in a good wheat harvest — 32 million tonnes. And that means that there will be no particularly acute problems as regards food grain.

But already, according to the State Committee for Statistics, over the last few weeks bread prices have risen more than any other food, which in itself provides little evidence of a grain surplus.

It is a matter of honor and pride for Russia to secure and maintain grain independence. Last year was historic in this respect. We imported so little that you might say that we did not import any at all. But this year's harvest is too low and it will therefore be hard to square the tough, but often diametrically opposed problems involving bread. First, there must be enough bread — the first bread line will spell the end for the incumbent politicians. Second, bread must be cheap, although it would be more natural for it to be expensive given the poor harvest and the refusal to import grain. But if prices go up 800 percent, as predicted in certain panicky discussions over the summer, that will once again have more impact on the political future of the current leadership than all the opposition's demonstrations. Last, bread must be "cheap for the budget," that is, bread subsidies have no right to crank up inflation and cancel out the longed-for effects of stabilization in our economy.

How is this to be achieved? The Federal Food Corporation, which is tackling grain procurements for federal stocks this year, plans to buy 8.6 million tonnes of grain. Admittedly, of late it has been hard to carry out these planned procurements, and this year has been no exception so far.

One Federal Food Corporation specialist recommended finding out how much money will be required by the simple arithmetical means of multiplying the planned level of procurements by an average price of 800,000 rubles [R] per tonne. Thus coming up with a scary figure in terms of its impact on the budget — about R6.9 trillion. Procuring a small fraction of the harvest will cost us more than the Chechen war if we assume that real spending on the latter corresponds to the official figures. It is quite obvious that, even were he to fully immerse himself in the concerns of the agro-industrial complex, the premier would hardly agree to that kind of expenditure since it would whip up inflation and cancel out all hope of stabilization. The budget cannot find even R3 trillion for grain procurements. Therefore everyone has long been talking of possible commercial bank loans. However, it is quite obvious that the banks are not interested in providing that kind of credit. There have already been reports that they are buying grain themselves. A mechanism to excite their interest is being developed at the moment. This will most likely represent a compromise involving advantageous terms for the banks (at budget expense of course) and some pressure on them.

Harvest Progress, Sharp Drop in Grain Output Noted

LD3110201095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — Russia's agricultural producers have virtually accomplished harvesting crops. According to preliminary information of the Agriculture and Food Ministry, they have produced 61.9 million tonnes of grain. As many as 42.4 million hectares of crops, or 86 percent of the total, have been harvested. Considering the written-off areas affected by last summer's heavy drought, only 50,000 hectares of wheat, 160,000 hectares of corn and 20,000 hectares of rice remain to be harvested.

According to the ministry, Russia's gross grain output will total 65.2 million tonnes, including 32 million tonnes of wheat, this year against 81.3 million tonnes in 1994.

Despite the limited stocks of grain this year, the country will be able to cover its internal demand, experts believe. At the same time, they are concerned about the slow pace of grain purchases to the state funds.

Sharply decreasing its grain output, the country was able to increase that of other crops. According to the ministry, Russia's output of corn will total 1.7 to 1.8 million tonnes (0.8 to 0.9 million tonnes more than planned), while that of sunflower seeds 3.7 million tonnes (1.2 million tonnes more).

Russia's agricultural producers have virtually accomplished harvesting sugar beet as they have already produced over 19 million tonnes, which is 5 million tonnes more than planned. Sugar-making factories have already received as many as 16 million tonnes of sugar beet, which is 4.3 million tonnes more than last year. The country's output of potatoes is estimated at 36 million tonnes, which is 2 million tonnes more than last year.

Experts point out swifter field works this autumn as compared to last year. In particular, winter crops have been sown on 14.9 million hectares (0.9 million hectares more than last year), while 39.8 million hectares have been ploughed for spring sowing (1.6 million hectares more than last year). Experts said that enabled them to hope for a larger harvest of crops next year.

International Affairs

Kuchma: Ukraine Should Refrain From Joining CIS Assembly

LD3110143695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV October 31 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma believes that Ukraine should refrain for the time being from joining the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, speaker of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz said at a parliamentary session on Tuesday.

According to Moroz, he sent a letter to Kuchma some three weeks ago, asking him to express his attitude to the issue, but received no answer. At the same time, he was told by members of Kuchma's staff that the reaction of the president had been negative.

Nevertheless, Moroz said that the Supreme Soviet would discuss Ukraine's possible joining of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly on November 2. "This is the business of the parliament, and not of the president, what it should join and at what time," the speaker stressed.

Deputies Vote To Accede to Council of Europe Charter

LD3110140795 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian people's deputies passed the law "On Ukraine's Accession to the Charter of the Council of Europe" with 256 votes for and five against. Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy and Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Supreme Council's commission for foreign affairs and ties with the CIS, made speeches.

There was opposition to this law from representatives of the "Communists of Ukraine" faction, who insisted that this issue be debated simultaneously with the issue of Ukraine's accession to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

Asked by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko whether Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe will prevent its full participation in CIS structures, Borys Oliynyk said: "No. This is confirmed by Article 1 of the Council of Europe Charter." The issue of Ukraine's accession to the Interparliamentary Assembly has been included on the agenda for next week.

Commenting on the possibility of abolishing the death penalty in Ukraine, Borys Oliynyk noted that "in joining the Council of Europe we are not obliged to abolish the death penalty at this very moment. But the trend toward this is consistent and we will arrive at that point without fail."

NATO Role in Resolving BSF Issue Sought

WS3110152695 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Oct 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Volodymyr Skachko: "Dry Your Mattresses: We Will Divide the Fleet. Ukraine-Russia: The Black Sea Fleet, NATO, or How We Should Arrange Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main events in foreign politics that have always worried Ukraine are perhaps those which may complicate the relationship between Kiev and Moscow. Our dependence on the Russian oil and gas pipelines has negative effects.

There are plenty of reasons for us to worry, because Ukraine and Russia are still facing one of the most difficult problems — the division of the Black Sea Fleet, on which a great number of bilateral agreements have been signed, though none of them is being implemented, which is accompanied by mutual accusations of unilateral violations. This can be confirmed by [Russian President] Boris Yeltsin's recent public statement that the Ukrainian side has recently been violating the latest agreement on the Black Sea Fleet — the Sochi agreement.

Being under pressure from Russia, Ukraine has ended up in a difficult situation: On the one hand, it does not want to argue with the oil-and-gas creditor. On the other hand, as regards the Black Sea Fleet, it cannot make concessions that would enable Russia to capture not only the entire fleet, but also part of the Ukrainian territory, and Russian (meaning foreign) troops to remain in Crimea for an undefined period of time, which is prohibited by our legislation.

Ukraine has found a way out — to continue the drafting of documents concerning the division of the Black Sea Fleet at the level of experts, to make them convenient for both states, and primarily for itself. This is entirely reasonable, since basically the Black Sea Fleet is — I will repeat — stationed in our country, and Ukraine may end up in a nasty situation, being dragged into the Russian flexing of muscles on its southern borders.

In the depths of Ukrainian politics, however, other proposals to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet are maturing, and some of them have already done so. The director of international policy programs under the Ukrainian Supreme Council, Pavlo Zhovnirenko, is their author. For a long time he has been preparing not only analysis of the Sochi agreement on the Black Sea Fleet, but also a report on Ukraine's possible steps aimed at resolving the problem of the fleet. The essence of these proposals is to more actively use and engage international organizations, particularly NATO, not only as a third-party judge, but also as a concrete aide with solid authority and real influence. Incidentally, Pavlo Zhovnirenko proposes a path Ukraine has so far been using insufficiently and timidly.

However, everything should be discussed in turn.

1. The Problem of the Black Sea Fleet

In the opinion of Zhovnirenko, the Sochi agreement on the Black Sea Fleet is not very convenient for Ukraine. In particular, he provides the following reasons to confirm his opinion: The agreement does not clearly define whether Sevastopol belongs to Russia or Ukraine, at the same time that according to the 9 July 1993 Russian parliament resolution the city was declared Russian, and the resolution has not yet been annulled.

The agreement does not clearly define such terms as "deployment of the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in the city of Sevastopol" and "use of the Black Sea Fleet facilities in the city of Sevastopol," since it is still unclear who owns the city. If it is Ukraine, then on what conditions should Russia use Sevastopol facilities? Pavlo Zhovnirenko is convinced that Ukraine should not accept any verbal agreements or guarantees, because if the Russian State Duma ratifies some agreements, only its written forms will be legal, and the current masters of the Kremlin, not to mention their successors, could easily disavow any verbal agreements.

Additionally, Pavlo Zhovnirenko is convinced that the Sochi agreement makes it possible for Russia to lay claims to an unlimited number of Black Sea Fleet facilities, both in Crimea and outside its borders (according to Article 2 of the agreement); moreover, it does not clearly define what must be divided — the tonnage of ships, their number, or value; it does not include the part of the Black Sea Fleet which was redeployed to Russia without Ukraine's consent and which is subject to division; etc.

From all of this the scientist draws conclusions. First, the fact that there are inaccuracies in the agreement makes it possible for Kiev and Moscow to use double standards.

Second, if the Ukrainian parliament ratifies this document before the State Duma cancels its resolution "on Russian Sevastopol," Ukraine itself may open a path toward losing the manageability over Crimea by both Kiev and Simferopol.

Third, in light of the rebirth of hurrah-patriotism as the main trump card of the majority of Russia's political forces, any fair resolution of the Black Sea Fleet problem is hardly possible before the new parliamentary and presidential elections. Nobody will want to give up the patriotically-minded electorate.

Finally, Pavlo Zhovnirenko believes that a particular "zero option" — signing of a multilateral agreement on demilitarization of the Black Sea according to which the Black Sea basin would be freed of combat ships except for border service vessels — may be the only compromise. To satisfy Russia's aspirations to the role of superpower, it can be offered a decision to conditionally not expand NATO to the east. It was NATO's recent decision [on eastward expansion] that consolidated all Russian hurrah-patriots and "state builders."

2. Proposals Regarding NATO

In the opinion of Pavlo Zhovnirenko, Ukrainian diplomats could hold substantial consultations with Western politicians and officials from interested countries within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program, and sign an "agreement on East European security." Its essence is to reach a mutually convenient compromise, to avoid a new division of Europe into NATO and the Tashkent Pact, and coordinate the interests of Central and East European countries (their desire to integrate with NATO as soon as possible and insure themselves against Russia's pressure), Western countries (their wish to avoid irritating the "Russian bear" and prevent it from embracing new spheres of influence), and Russia (its goal to prevent NATO and its nuclear missiles from approaching its borders). Ukraine as a neutral state would also have its way: It would avoid both the role of a buffer zone and the pressure from both sides. The problem of the Black Sea Fleet would also be resolved.

The essence of Pavlo Zhovnirenko's proposal concerning NATO is that the North Atlantic bloc should decide not to expand to the east on clearly defined conditions (thus the term "conditional non-expansion), taking into account the current situation on the continent.

Pavlo Zhovnirenko suggests two sets of such conditions.

The first set:

— NATO deepens and expands cooperation in the area of defense within the "Partnership for Peace" program;
— NATO grants the rights of membership to countries-partners, except for the case envisioned in Article 5 of the Agreement on NATO (this article says the following: "The countries agree that a military attack against one or several of them in Europe or North America will be considered an attack against all of them...." Furthermore, NATO must repulse the aggression by all meth-

ods, including military ones. This article is the substance of NATO, in which countries-candidates see a guarantee for their security);
— NATO considers the coming to power in Russia of forces directly or indirectly threatening the sovereignty of neighbors as a required and sufficient reason to admit threatened countries to their ranks, meaning that it expands to the east and center of Europe.

The second set:

— after NATO makes a decision on conditional non-expansion, Central and East European countries sign among themselves an agreement on establishing a new interstate security structure independent of NATO and the Tashkent Pact, a particular "intermediate NATO";
— the new structure signs identical agreements with NATO and the Tashkent Pact on behalf of all its members. However, in the opinion of Pavlo Zhovnirenko, these agreements must include a clause similar to the aforementioned Article 5 of the Agreement on NATO.

Pavlo Zhovnirenko is convinced that these agreements, without depriving countries of their nonaligned status or correcting it, will provide them with guarantees envisioned by NATO or the Tashkent Pact, and will make it possible for the "intermediate NATO" to avoid accusations of a one-sided orientation. Europe will thus be enveloped by three security systems, which in the future may become one system ensuring common security.

These are his proposals and arguments. Of course, one cannot say that old politicians obsessed by their idees fixes will agree with them. Stereotypes of political thinking are too strong within NATO, Central Europe, and Russia. Their desire to bargain, though not to receive some commodity, but to dupe one another, is too strong. After all, who is Pavlo Zhovnirenko to unilaterally propose a way to placate the flaring passions on the continent? However, as everybody knows, things do not get done by themselves. Certainly, the main thing in the current policy of European countries is not to speak about security, but to achieve it according to the principle of making everyone happy. Finally, the talk is about peace for common people, provided, of course, that politicians refer themselves to this category....

Russian Consul on Sevastopol Russian Community Issue

LD3110173795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEVASTOPOL, Oct 31 (Interfax - Ukraine) - Russia's Consul-General to Odessa Vladimir Nemtsov, who attended the court hearings on the disbandment of Sevastopol's Russian Community organization Monday claimed that he could not discover in the documents submitted to court by the public prosecutor any actions aimed at a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Commenting, at newsmen's request, on the course of the court hearings, the Consul-General expressed disagreement with accusation levelled against the Russian Community of Sevastopol of initiating the illegal procedure of granting Russian citizenship to the city residents. In his words, according to international laws, the issues of citizenship are "within the authority of solely government bodies, but not of public organizations". "According to the Russian Federation's Law 'Of citizenship', only diplomatic and consular offices are entitled to decide such issues", Nemtsov said.

Sevastopol's public prosecutor Ivan Vernidub's action against the Russian Community of Sevastopol and its newspaper contains accusations of "illegal registration of the Russian citizenship for Sevastopol residents"; "distribution of documents to substantiate the claim that Sevastopol belongs to Russia"; kindling ethnic strife and interference in Ukraine's home affairs.

Nevertheless, according to Interfax - Ukraine, the consul declared that he had no grudge against the course of the court hearings. He highly appreciated answers given to the judge's questions by the Russian Community of Sevastopol's representatives, who, in his opinion, presented exhaustive arguements in their defence.

Nemtsov refused to predict the course and outcome of the court hearings. He emphasized at the same time that the case of the Russian Community of Sevastopol "is directly infringing upon the interests of Russia and Russians".

The Consul-General deplored that the Russian "legal field is not up to the mark" as regards the protection of the rights of the compatriots abroad.

The Lenin district court of Sevastopol will proceed with the hearings into the case of the Russian Community of Sevastopol November 15. At the October 30 session, the Chairman of the Russian Community of Sevastopol's Council and a representative of the Russian Community of Sevastopol daily categorically denied all charges made by the public prosecutor.

Kuchma Favors Russian Partnership in Latin America Market

LD3110131095 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chile — During a meeting with journalists, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma spoke in favor of close partnership between Ukraine and Russia on the Latin American market. Replying to a question about whether Ukraine sees Russia as a competitor or a partner on the South American market, the head of the Ukrainian state said: Definitely as a partner.

Unfortunately, everything that has been done so far was the other way round, Leonid Kuchma complained, for we know very well that any end products issued in Russia or Ukraine were made jointly. Therefore each should now help rather than hinder the other in advancing to foreign markets, the Ukrainian president emphasized, including the mastery of space.

Touching on the Black Sea Fleet problem, Leonid Kuchma agreed with the case that there are forces both in Ukraine and in Russia who do not want a normal resolution of it now. I believe, he said, that there should be no problem either. Its resolution should depend, above all, on the political leadership of Ukraine and Russia.

It is extremely unfortunate that a line has been drawn under the Sochi accords and that the positive process has been frozen. It is a pity, Leonid Kuchma said, that no steps [to meet us] halfway have been seen on the part of Russia, although the process should be a bilateral one. It is now in both Russia's and Ukraine's interests to resolve the problem, the president said.

President Kuchma Arrives in Rio de Janeiro

LD3110225195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIO DE JANEIRO, October 31 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Brazil on Tuesday.

After the official welcoming ceremony, the presidential motorcade proceeded to his residency to Hotel Copacabana Palace.

Today, Kuchma and Governor of Rio de Janeiro Marcelo Nunes de Alencar held talks at the Laranjeiras Palace.

The Ukrainian head of state laid a wreath at the memorial of the Unknown Soldier.

Kuchma will wind up his tour of Latin America on November 1. He is expected to meet with industrialists of Rio de Janeiro.

National Affairs

Parliament Vetoes Kuchma Decree on Local Power

LD3110204095 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the parliament's evening sitting deputies imposed a veto on the presidential decree on the regulation on regional, Kiev, and Sevastopol city state administrations and the regulation on district, Kiev, and Sevastopol urban district state administrations of 21 August 1995. Thus, the bodies of state power in the localities are being deprived of a legislative base in their activities. This can hardly be promote efficient work.

Shmarov Comments on Scrapping Hardware Under CFE

WS0111091295 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0756 GMT 1 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to UKRINFORM's metropolitan correspondent, on Tuesday, October 31 a T-62 tank was scrapped at the Kiev Armor Repair Factory, the last of Ukraine's armored vehicles slated for scrapping under the nation's commitments involving the Treaty on Reductions of Conventional Armaments and Troops in Europe [CFE].

Commenting on the event Ukraine's Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov said that Ukraine was absolutely ready to report about its compliance with the Treaty, having scrapped 1,974 tanks, 1,545 armored cars and 550 combat aircraft. The Black Sea Fleet's weaponry presents a far more difficult task, he said, since Ukraine will be able to reduce its part of the fleet only after it has been divided between Russia and Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian Defense Minister, the bulk of the tanks, armored cars and armored personnel carriers were scrapped by factories in Kiev, Lvov, and Kharkov.

Factories located in Zhytomyr, Mykolayiv, Kryvyy Rih, Chuhuyiv, Bila Tserkva were involved in scrapping aircraft, the Minister went on. According to Mr. Shmarov, some portion of the military hardware was converted to peaceable applications in the national economy. As the Minister maintained, the scrapping costs for a T-62 type tank were as high as 4,000 US dollars versus its current market price between 400,000 and 500,000 dollars. In view of this, as Mr. Shmarov insisted, Ukraine should not altogether neglect its tank manufacturing industry as harboring vast technical and intellectual potential.

Mr. Shmarov made the above remarks during a press conference at the Kiev factory which was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Kostyantyn Hryshchenko.

Moroz Addresses Miners, Pledges Support

WS3110153895 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

["Excerpts" from the speech by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz delivered at the First Congress of Ukrainian Miners in Kiev; date not given: "We Will Do Everything To Ensure the Protection of Your Work" — first two paragraphs are HOLOS UKRAYINY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The First Congress of Ukrainian Miners held in Kiev last week analyzed the current situation in the coal industry, discussed the program for reorganizing the coal sector in 1996-97 and the concept for the development of the coal extracting sector until the year 2005. A pointed discussion on the economic and social policy pursued by the government took place.

At the miners' request, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz participated in the work of this congress and provided frank answers to all questions raised by delegates. In particular, O. Moroz stated the following:

Esteemed congress delegates! I would like to cordially congratulate all of you on this important event in the life of the miners' movement. Indeed, this is your first congress and there is hope that it will score success and will initiate a tradition. I was eager to and have been granted an opportunity to talk with the delegates of this congress.

How do I understand the status and the objectives of this congress? I have familiarized myself with the issues which you have included on the agenda; I know the people whom you have invited to answer your questions. I believe that, in general, problems have become imminent and urgent. The issues related to executive power are not raised here but, naturally, the legislature has no right to avoid them.

One way or another, it is clear that by discussing economic issues the congress will shift to political ones.

Let us have a look at the prehistory of all these problems that have recently emerged. Let us return to 1989, which is the beginning of the process. Miners who participated in political developments were one of the most active participants in this process. How were the objectives formulated at the time? Indeed, for example, it was necessary to create a more flexible system of labor payments and introduce changes in the general economic structure. Great problems became imminent and they had to be resolved. It seems to me, however, that not all of your leaders understood at the time who precisely pursued specific objectives and what kind of objectives were pursued. Speaking correctly, we have arrived today at the point toward which you and we have been steered since the beginning or middle of perestroyka. The aftermath is the collapse of the great state and the current situation. One should regard these things as objective processes. Therefore, in the current situation, one should not look for culprits for what has been done. When one points at the top, sometimes it is necessary to point at oneself. Hence, some things have not been considered.

Everything is made public now; the situation exacerbates and leads to results. Therefore, whether one likes it or not, we have accepted the rules of the game that were set not by us alone. Now we — the president, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the Supreme Council — are forced to act according to this "scenario," although it should not continue endlessly. Because, if such events continue to develop in the future as well, we will definitely ruin both the sector and the economy in general, disperse primary means of production, and become a raw appendage of Western countries. I would like to state that when one criticizes and puts forward his requirements, it is necessary to realize that no one but us have placed ourselves in such conditions. These claims are not against you, but against power, because Ukraine has not had a national economic policy over recent years.

Regrettably, this fact is also true. Will this problem be resolved by the governmental program supported by the Supreme Council? Not entirely. Although the prime minister's report and his speech include requirements for and the understanding of the need to support national production, and priority sectors — which also incorporate the coal industry as a component of the energy complex. What should the Supreme Council be forced to do in such a situation? I will not describe the chronology of this issue. Yesterday, Oleksandr Mykhaylovych Kozhushko, head of the Supreme Council Commission for the Fuel and Energy Complex, explained what we did over these 18 months to support miners. State regulation of the market is the only thing that can save this sector. I do not want to be a populist, but in 1991-92, when coal prices were increased, there were only a few people in the Supreme Council who opposed this move. Frankly speaking, I remind you that I also stated then that this move did not need to be adopted. The social sector should be separated from production, but at the same time one should realize that at least five-seven years are required for this to occur. Otherwise, production will be ruined and the situation in the social sector will become even more deteriorated. Even now miners' settlements do not have all amenities. Given such a complicated situation, a decision to introduce the subsistence minimum (I realize that the government does not like this measure now) has been a forced move. There is nowhere to retreat, because an individual will not be able to exist on less than 4 million karbovantsi [K].

The Supreme Council has adopted a decision to instruct the government, along with the commissions for budgetary issues, social issues, and economic policy, to develop specific measures to introduce the subsistence minimum. There are opportunities to do so. I understand that this subsistence minimum could not be specified at the beginning, but one should know when this would be done. It is necessary to find money to cover these expenditures. Clause No. 37 of the Law "On the State Budget" specifies the sources of setting up a stabilization fund and a fund for the development of the sector. I believe that the government will be able to explain why this has not been done and what must be done now to provide at least K10 trillion during the time that is left. This issue should be dealt with. One should not issue statements, but should make specific calculations and answer those questions that are raised by the people now.

The next issue is as follows: We have discussed and adopted — in the first reading — the program for the future development of the coal sector (that is, the law on the concept of the development of the coal industry); we kept in mind the fact that coal extraction must increase almost by a factor of two. This is an answer to the question of what the Supreme Council's attitude toward the sector is in general and its prospects. This program can be implemented only at the expense of state credits issued to: upgrade the sector, restore and modernize production, close down and open mines. This must be done. In the immediate future, this document will be adopted in the second reading. It has been drafted in cooperation with the Coal Industry Ministry and the Cabinet of Ministers. I hope that the program will be implemented.

It has been correctly stated here that there is the division of power and each [power branch] is accountable for its own issues. There are problems — including the question of settling debts and other issues — that were resolved with the assistance of the Supreme Council last year. One also felt this in December-February. Can the Supreme Council resolve such issues now? No. Do you remember your actions in late spring? I participated in the meeting in the House of Trade Unions. Later, you met with other representatives of power, and your leaders said: "The country must have one master, what is this babbling in the Supreme Council for?" But the following day, a statement on a public opinion referendum, which also provided tentative answers to these questions, was published. I do not agree, but I was forced to accept the Constitutional Accord that restricted the Supreme Council functions. We will do what is within our competence today. But the situation in which we are now will not change soon. However, problems must be resolved now. The primary role here belongs to the government.

I will not make any promises. The situation will be difficult. I think that, despite everything, we will achieve success. It is necessary to live through this period because nothing is done by itself; success and, hence, a better life will not come by themselves as well. I realize that today a lot of specific, sore questions — to which I cannot provide any answers — must be resolved. I will meet with your representatives, disabled pensioners, and those people who are responsible for these issues in the government and the Supreme Council. We will talk things over and decide what to do. I state once again: I cannot promise any "bright prospects" to you, because there is an extremely difficult situation in both miners' collectives and other enterprises. You also know that the situation is difficult because you are not simply miners but also Ukrainian citizens. Therefore, anyway, at the end of my report, I want to hope that you will strike with a constructive, creative cord; your requests will be tough and objective and you will consider conditions in which the president, the government, and the Supreme Council are functioning now.

I can only promise that as regards the Supreme Council and myself, I will do everything to improve the situation in the coal industry because I realize that the state of many people depends on these decisions. We will do everything to ensure the protection of your work.

(Editor's note: All peculiarities of spoken language have been preserved.)

Independent Miners Strike, Reject Political Demands

LD0111095895 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0845 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Leaders of primary branches of the Independent Miners' Union of Ukraine [IMUU] will begin a hunger strike today.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the union's leaders yesterday. The IMUU is demanding that the Ukrainian Government raise miners' wages by 200 percent, abolish restrictions on pensions,and approve a state program to reform the coal industry.

The IMUU meeting began immediately after a meeting between miners' leaders and Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov. The government gave assurances that by 10 November, it would pay miners' wages for October and would partially compensate them for the debts of the last few months. A mechanism should be drawn up in November for removing restrictions on miners' pensions and overcoming the industry's nonpayment crisis.

Miners' leaders have agreed to set up a commission of miners' unions to work jointly with the Ukrainian Government on signing a tariff agreement and on developing a state coal program. Regional leaders are geared up, however, for beginning the action of pressuring the Cabinet of Ministers into ensuring that the agreements will be implemented. In particular, miners in Donetsk are planning to suspend coal deliveries to electric power stations and coke-oven plants, which have reserves of coal only for another week.

At the same time, the IMUU and its regional partners do not support the decisions of the recent congress of Ukrainian miners to raise signatures demanding President Leonid Kuchma's resignation, and are putting forward only social demands.

Economic Issues

Kiev To Pay Penalty for Using More Gas Than Agreed

MK3110081095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 3

[ANI report: "Russia Has Reduced Pressure in Export Gas Pipelines Across Ukrainian Territory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As reported by "Ukrgazprom" [Ukrainian gas industry], the pressure in Russian export gas pipelines on the border between Ukraine and Europe [as published] is six atmospheres lower than envisioned by the agreement between Ukraine's "Ukrgazprom" enterprise and the Russian "Gazprom" joint-stock company. Russian experts believe this is due to the fact that the Ukrainian company is taking from Russian transit gas pipelines a greater volume of gas than that envisioned under the contract between "Ukrgazprom" and "Gazprom." In the opinion of experts, this hypothesis is supported by the fact that since 24 October gas consumption in Ukraine has risen by 15 percent, amounting to 236 million cubic meters a day. Sources at "Ukrgazprom" attribute the need for a rise in gas consumption in the republic to the cold spell.

As a result of the nonobservance of contract terms, "Ukrgazprom" will have to pay a penalty to the "Gazprom" joint-stock company. Last year, as a result of similar violations of contract terms, "Ukrgazprom" paid "Gazprom" about $200 million. The daily volume of Russian gas pumped across the territory of Ukraine amounts to 640 million cubic meters, of which 200 million cubic meters go to Ukrainian customers; the remainder is exported. In 1995, Russian gas deliveries to Ukraine, under the agreement between "Ukrgazprom" and "Gazprom," should amount to 51.9 billion cubic meters.

Supreme Council Approves Resolution on Currency Law

LD3110220895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1810 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — On 31 October the Ukrainian Supreme Council approved a resolution "On the concept of the law on currency regulation" (out of 319 people's deputies 208 voted for, 43 against and 14 abstained), according to which it is proposed to maintain the existing procedure whereby 50 percent of hard currency received by businesses should be sold.

The law "On currency regulation" was approved by a resolution in its first reading, and parliament proposed that further work be done on it "by making amendments and additions to the Cabinet of Ministers' decree 'On the system of currency regulation and currency control of 19 February 1993.'"

The law proposes providing guarantees to those with hard currency accounts in Ukrainian banks (corporate bodies and physical persons) and states the impossibility of forcibly transferring hard currency into Ukrainian currency.

The parliament agreed with the policy of the National Bank of Ukraine on decentralizing the hard currency market and allowed authorized Ukrainian commercial banks to carry out trade in foreign currency at the interbank and the internal bank currency markets. It also agreed with the expediency of giving the National Bank of Ukraine the exclusive right to regulate the official rate of Ukraine's currency against foreign currencies.

It was proposed that the government and the National Bank of Ukraine should, within two weeks, forward for the parliament's consideration the draft law on paying off the debts of physical persons whose hard currency accounts at the Foreign Economic Bank of the former USSR were blocked, and should also forward proposals on resolving this issue for corporate bodies.

Belarus

Foreign Minister Assesses Lukashenka's U.S. Visit

WS3110133595 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko "at the end of Belarusian President Lukashenka's 23-27 October trip to the United States"; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Syanko] I think that it was very essential for Belarus — one of the founders of the United Nations — that the first Belarusian president voiced his assessments and opinions about the development of events following the foundation of the UN Organization, UN achievements, and, particularly, how Belarus sees the future of our world and the establishment of a security system guaranteeing peaceful coexistence for all nations.

This was followed by a large segment of the visit devoted to financial-economic matters. It is difficult to recount all the meetings. I think that our colleagues have already told you about them. There were meetings with representatives of banks, stock exchanges, enterprises, the agricultural sector, and large electronic equipment plants. I think that many of those meetings will have an interesting affect on Belarusian-U.S. relations in the future.

It is clear that for our president it was not a tourist-type trip just to become familiar with the United States. The point was not this. During his meetings with various politicians and particularly with entrepreneurs and managers of major corporations, the talks were about how to bring our cooperation with the United States from the area of humanitarian aid to the sphere of partnership. I think that President Alyaksandr Ryhoravich Lukashenka's visit will bring very interesting results in this regard.

I want to assert that while we were in the United States we observed great interest in cooperation with Belarus. Everybody realizes that Belarus has a very interesting location in Europe. Frankly speaking, I was somewhat surprised by major U.S. businessmen in Chicago, who assured that they distinguish Belarus from all the former USSR republics — the current CIS — due to the positive aspect here of maintaining political and economic stability. Naturally, it is a relative stability, only if compared with the situation of our neighbors. I am here expressing not my own opinion, but those voiced by managers of U.S. corporations and firms cooperating with us. I think that, following this visit, there should be certain interesting and effective impetuses from our side, too.

You quite often asked me what specific results will follow this visit. Let us put it this way: What if it was somebody else, not the president of the republic, on this visit? [sentence as heard] I will say unambiguously: It could be felt during our meetings with U.S. politicians and major entrepreneurs that these people perceive our state, both today and for the future, as a place worth visiting and investing in.

Presidential Aide Assesses Future U.S. Investment

WS0111112495 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Unattributed interview with Presidential Administration Chief Mikhail Myasnikovich "at the end of President Lukashenka's 21-27 October visit to the United State"; place not given — recorded in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Myasnikovich] We have had a chance to make sure that our proposals, as well as those of the U.S. side, really mean mutually beneficial cooperation. I can quote specific examples. When, for example, we held a meeting at Motorola — a major firm with some 130,000 employees, considerable capital, and big sales — we saw that they are genuinely interested in cooperation with our enterprises. I would like to say here that they have rather good relations with our "Integral" production association; they also have very interesting proposals for developing a cellular communications network in our Republic. We considered not only questions connected with the usual trade issues and supplies of equipment, but also seriously discussed those concerning organizational structures, that is, what forms these structures are to take — joint ventures, joint stock companies, or some other form. We discussed how we should allot a frequency band to cover the entire territory of our republic with a cellular network, which is a modern, economical, and wireless form of communication.

The main point I would like to make is that we found appropriate mutual understanding. Those opinions often voiced by politicians that Belarus has almost found itself in an economic blockade situation do not completely correspond to the facts, since there is a great interest in both economic and cultural exchange in order for the sides to get to know each other better. I think that this is a very serious step for the future, a step which will undoubtedly further the strengthening of Belarusian-U.S. relations.

We will charge our government with the task of appropriately overseeing specific projects and plans, as well as promoting their implementation in every possible way. We will undoubtedly have to introduce certain corrections in the current legislation and adopt new laws in order to create understandable rules of the game, understandable norms of mutual relations between our economic entities.

Work for our enterprises implies, naturally, additional jobs and tax revenues for the budget sphere. For example, Motorola guarantees the creation of up to 1,500 additional jobs in the near future at the "Integral" production association alone. This actually means that 5,000 families will receive guaranteed and rather good earnings. [sentence as heard]

Unquestionably, the involvement of private investment from the U.S. capital markets is a reality. It is perhaps too early to speak today about specific volumes and scopes, but this actually means hundreds of millions of dollars that can be invested in our economy. Why will this take place? You know, we do not always have sufficient information, but meetings with businessmen and representatives of business circles, primarily those from the financial sector, allow us to conclude even today that the United States has currently a great concentration and portion of global capital — as it was formerly with material resources — and, of course, wants to put this capital into operation to obtain dividends from it. I think that if we provide possibilities for others to work in our market, considerable capital, estimated at many hundreds of millions of dollars, will be invested in the near future.

Lukashenka, U.S. Official Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD3110201195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1856 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Oct 31 (Interfax-West) — The implementation of a schedule for withdrawing Russian strategic troops from Belarus should be completed next year, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the U.S. State Secretary's Special Advisor for CIS Affairs James Collins and the U.S. Defense Secretary's Advisor for International Security Ashton Carter said at their talks in Minsk today.

Carter told a press conference on the results of the talks that the parties had also spoken in favor of retraining personnel involved with Russian strategic missiles in Belarus.

Collins praised Belarus' readiness to enlarge cooperation with NATO within the scope of the Partnership for Peace program. He told the press conference that the U.S. government planned to earmark Belarus $1 million for reimbursing expenses of its participation in this program.

Collins said the U.S. had already extended to Belarus over $100 million for the limitation of strategic arms and over $5 million for the destruction of military equipment under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

Carter said the Belarusian-U.S working group had initialled a treaty on cooperation between the two countries' defense departments which in particular provides for creating a joint system of control over Belarus' air space.

The working group was created in 1993 under a memorandum on the development of mutual understanding and cooperation in the military area between the two countries' defense departments.

Popular Front Appeals to U.S., Russian Leaders

WS0111090895 Minsk BELAPAN in English
0756 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On August 23 leaders of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF], Zyanon Paznyak, Valyantsin Holubew and Syarhey Navumchyk, sent letters to the Russian President and State Duma, as well as the U.S. President and Congress, in which they called on them not to disregard the threat to democratic processes, and the restriction of the freedom of expression in Belarus. As the Belarusian Popular Front press secretary Syarhey Navumchyk informed the press, the BNF received an answer from the U.S. President. In his letter Bill Clinton shared concern about the anti-democratic nature of some measures taken by the Belarusian government and urges all progressively minded people to uphold the freedom of expression in Belarus. In addition, the U.S. President expressed support to the Free Trade Union of Belarus and announced that his administration intends to render it a certain aid.

Moldova

Sangheli Interviewed on Government Policy, Confidence

LD3010182495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1631 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 208] (951)]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Many say the Moldovan government is most likely to win a confidence vote in parliament on Tuesday in the face of desperate attempts by opposition members to try to topple it. However, others do not rule out a government defeat.

In the meantime, Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli in an interview with Presidential Bulletin has declined to speak of the fate of his cabinet.

But he spoke of seeking to pursue a responsible policy and avoid any populism or hollow promises. Sangheli said his government was open for discussion with opposition members and cooperation with the trade unions and public groups. He said the cabinet had enough resolve and political will to implement measures aimed at economic recovery and better living standards.

[PRESIDENTIAL BULLETIN] Mr Sangheli, is it possible to speak in terms of economic stabilization or signs of economic growth in Moldova?

[Sangheli] Final results are not expected until the end of this year. But on the other hand, it must be said the government has succeeding in setting conditions for macroeconomic stabilization. The government and National Bank have worked together to curb inflation from 21% in 1993 to 7% last year and to 1.1% in the nine months to October. Budget deficit has been narrowed to 3.5%. And privatization is in full swing of state property, land and housing. Price, currency and trade controls have been lifted. But it usually takes from 18 months to two years to pass from macroeconomic and financial stabilization to some indications of economic growth as shown by the experience gained in Czechia [Czech Republic], Poland, Slovenia and the Baltic states.

[PRESIDENTIAL BULLETIN] What is the government working on now?

[Sangheli] Industrial reform in the post privatization period, state support for private business and incentives to export trade and foreign investment are the main priorities of all branches of government.

More urgent priorities include the next two-year privatization program with a focus made on economic performance and a package of measures to straighten out financial discipline and help the enterprises overcome the payment crisis. The newly-established council of state creditors has now set to work, responsibility enhanced for better tax collection and an agency set up for industrial restructuring. Measures are also being taken to repay the farming sector's debt in kind.

[PRESIDENTIAL BULLETIN] Could you possibly give an overall picture of the state of the national economy and development trends?

[Sangheli] Overall, the rate of the national currency has been stabilized and its internal convertibility achieved, inflation largely cut back, the economy diversified, and private sector enlarged. More importantly, cash privatization has now begun and foreign investors are welcome to take part. The farming sector has been liberalized and production slump halted with the emergence of export-oriented businesses.

For the first time in the past five years there is a trend towards an evening of incomes and consumer prices and tariffs and a lessening of government debt in salaries to public sector workers.

[PRESIDENTIAL BULLETIN] In a nutshell, can one say Moldova is in a critical phase of economic reforms?

[Sangheli] Exactly so. We expect a 1%-1.5% growth rate for the first time in recent years and there are first signs of economic stabilization though the overall picture is confusing. Destructive trends persist and there has been little progress in some directions of social and economic reforms. That is why I believe the country is in need as never before of concerted effort by the legislative and executive branches of government. This must be aimed at mobilizing internal resources and developing more promising sectors of the economy as a way of creating an effective social security system.

Deputies Adopt Draft Dniester Constitution

AU3110181795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1930 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, October 30 (INFOTAG) — The draft of the new constitution of the secessionist Dniester Moldovan Republic has been approved by the 5th Congress of Local All-Level Deputies held in Tiraspol last Saturday [28 October]. It was attended by 429 deputies from all over the region.

The draft reads that the republic "is a democratic, social, law- governed state which exercises the supremacy and fullness of power on its territory, conducts independently its domestic and foreign policies, defends its independence and territorial integrity."

Dniester runs state, private and some other types of property. Land and other natural resources are in the exceptional ownership of the state.

Parliament Chairman Grigore Maracuta told INFOTAG that under the new constitution Dniester shall have a presidential-parliamentary form of governance. In his words, the draft envisages a strict division between three power branches — legislative, executive and judicial.

By the draft, the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) is the supreme representative and legislative organ of the state power. It shall be elected for 5 years and shall consist of the Chamber of Deputies (35 deputies) and the Chamber of Legislature (32 deputies).

The document reads that the president, vice president, members of the government, judges and prosecutors cannot become people's deputies. The president shall be the head of state and the executive power. He or she shall determine the key directions of the republic's domestic and foreign policies. The president shall be elected for 5 years on the basis of the universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. The president of Dniester may only be a local citizen no younger than 35 years of age, permanently residing in the republic for no less than 5 years directly before the elections.

Three languages — Moldovan, Russian and Ukrainian — shall be official ones in the region.

As INFOTAG correspondent was told in the Dniester Parliament, several key articles in the draft constitution will be put up at a referendum which is planned to be conducted simultaneously with the forthcoming parliamentary election.

Smirnov Rejects Chisinau's Draft Law on Dniester Status

AU3110182095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, October 30 (INFOTAG) — The Chisinau-proposed draft law on the Dniester legal status does not provide any guarantees for the future of the region in case Moldova has changed its political course, believes Dniester leader Igor Smirnov.

Speaking at the 5th Congress of All-Level Deputies here last Saturday [28 October], he said the draft law "takes absolutely no account of the present-day reality whose stem element is the 5-year long existence of the Dniester republic. Chisinau is offering to us a modest territorial autonomy which in many aspects yields to the Gagauzi variant. Such a status cannot ensure to the Dniester people the entire fullness of human rights and freedoms."

In his opinion, Moldova is more and more yielding to the influence of those political forces which are orienting the country to the West, first and foremost to the United States and NATO. The student strike — which, in Smirnov's view, is aimed at the constitutional nailing down of the official language name as Romanian, not Moldovan — is associated by many in Dniester with "the growing new wave of Romanism in Moldova." In the emerging situation, Smirnov views a way out in "a more active involvement of Russia and Ukraine in the negotiation process to define a legal status for the region. Jointly with Russia and Ukraine, we need to elaborate a mechanism of guarantees which should have 3 levels: reciprocal guarantees of the conflicting sides, guarantees of neighbour states, and guarantees of international organizations," the leader stressed.

In his belief, such a mechanism should include a reliable system of the situation control which would provide for strict sanctions — economic, political, diplomatic and military — in case any side violates the attained agreements.

President Igor Smirnov called the above Congress delegates to speed up any activities for a de facto and de jure recognition of the Dniester republic.

He said, the Dniester leadership has been conducting the essential work in two directions: firstly, with territorial units which are in the same position as Dniester, — South Ossetia, the Crimea, Abkhazia. The second is the work with Russian Federation units which acquired a significant degree of independence in external relations.

Smirnov particularly stressed the inter-state agreement on trade and economic relations between Dniester and the Republic of Tatarstan (in Central Russia), and said Dniester had signed similar documents with Bashkiria, Krasnodar region, Karelia, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Astrakhan, the Orel and Cheleabinsk regions (Russia) and the Donetsk region (Ukraine).

The leader has reaffirmed that Boris Yeltsin's decree "On Russia's Strategic Course in Dealing With the CIS States" fully meets Dniester interests and allows to the region to see its own perspectives.

Smirnov has stated, "Moldova and Dniester could join the CIS Defence Union, because the left-hand side of the Dniester river is a zone of Russia's interests," and expressed regret about Moldova's reluctance to join that Union.

Kyrgyzstan

Premier Delivers Message From Akayev to Jiang Zemin

LD2710153695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Romanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING October 27 (Itar-Tass) — President Jiang Zemin received Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov of Kyrgyzstan, who is currently in China on an official visit, at the Party and Government residence in Shanghai on Friday [27 October].

Jiang and Dzhumagulov exchanged views on bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest.

The Chinse President had arrived in Shanghai on October 26 on his way from New York at the close of the 50th jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly. On his way home, Jiang made a brief stopover at Anchorage airport in Alaska.

"China will always be a good friend and neighbour of Kyrgyzstan," Jiang said during today's meeting with the Kyrgyz Premier.

The Chinese leader emphasised that his country at all times valued traditional friendship with Kyrgyzstan and seeks to deepen the established goodneighbourly relations. China respects the choice made by the Kyrgyz people and supports the efforts of President Askar Akayev and the Kyrgyz government towards upholding and strengthening national independence and sovereignty which promote internal stability and economic revitalisation in the republic, Jiang pointed out. He thanked the Kyrgyz government for its support of China's stand on the Taiwan issue.

The Kyrgyz Premier said China had been the first state to recognise the independence of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. He highly appreciated China's policy of reforms and openness to the rest of the world and the country's economic strides which promote peace on earth and the well-being of the people.

The Kyrgyz Premier delivered a message to Jiang from President Akayev.

Akayev: Attempts at CIS Integration Remain on Paper

LD3110210095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite efforts by CIS leaders aimed at closer CIS integration, all of the earlier agreements remain on paper, President Askar Akayev said in an opening speech to the international business forum in Bishkek on Tuesday.

He spoke of a backlog of untapped potentials and missed opportunities in CIS cooperation.

Akayev called on industrialists and entrepreneurs to show politicians an example of how to derive real advantages from closer CIS cooperation.

He does not believe CIS states will be able to ensure stability and growth unless restoring former industrial and economic ties though on a new basis. Akayev said the need for closer integration had become all the more obvious after several years of sovereignty and independence by CIS states.

Akayev was hopeful the Bishkek forum could help restore and enhance economic integration within the CIS and Eastern Europe.

He praised the delegates' role in setting a new climate of business partnership intended to bridge the gap in economic alienation and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs led by Arkadiy Volskiy for its contribution to the cause of bringing CIS businessmen together.

In this connection, Akayev pointed to the significance of a meeting between Russian and Kyrgyz business representatives due on Tuesday. More than 50 Russian industrialists and bankers are involved.

Joint Military Exercise With U.S. Possible

LD3110221795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Oct 31 (Interfax) - President Nursultan Nazarbayev, of Kyrgyzstan, discussed the possibility of a joint military exercise with the U.S. president Albert Gore during his visit to the United States for the jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly. The staff exercise would be held within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program in Central Asia, Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev has said.

He said the United States suggested inviting Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia to take part.

Tokayev said that both sides supported the idea of a double-route pipe-line, one through Russia and the other through Georgia and Turkey to transport Azerbaijani oil produced in the Caspian.

At the same time President Nazarbayev made it quite clear that Almaty "as a stronghold of democracy and reform in Central Asia hoped for Washington's greater attention," Tokayev said.

Tajikistan

Ubaydullayev, Opposition Meet With Turkmen Leaders

LD3110123695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Oct 31 (Interfax) — Tajikistan's First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev, leader of the governmental delegation to the inter-Tajik settlement talks, is conferring with Turkmen leaders in Ashgabat.

Ubaidullayev is expected to meet with President Sapadmurad Niyazov, Interfax learned on Tuesday from a source close to the Turkmen president's staff. The source said the two men will discuss prospects for economic cooperation between the two republics, as well as the place and date for the 5th round of inter-Tajik talks.

In the meantime leading member of the united Tajik opposition Akbar Turadjonzoda also conferred with high-ranking Turkmen officials in Ashgabat.

Earlier it was believed that the 5th round of inter-Tajik talks would be conducted in Ashgabat. However the Tajik opposition insists that it be held in Vienna or Almaty. Dushanbe wants it to take place in Ashgabat.

On the eve of his trip to Ashgabat, Turadjonzoda told Interfax that the opposition intends to confer with leaders of all Central Asian states to brief them on its proposals concerning inter-Tajik settlement.

Turadjonzoda is expected to leave Ashgabat for Tashkent on Tuesday.

Khayrulloyev, Iranian Defense Attache Discuss Cooperation

LD3110225695 Tehran IRNA in English 2117 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Oct. 31, IRNA — In a meeting with the new Iranian defence attache to Tajikistan, Colonel Gholam Reza Shakiba, Tajik Minister of Defence Sherali Khayrulloyev here today stressed the need for expansion of defence cooperation between the two countries.

Saying that Iran and Tajikistan hold a common view in defence and related areas, Khayrulloyev called for further cooperation between the two sides.

Present at the meeting was the Iranian ambassador in Dushanbe, ali ashraf mojtahed-shabistari, who referred to the recent visit to Tehran by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported a peaceful end to the Tajik crises.

Border Guards Report 'Extremely Disquieting' Situation

LD0111084695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, November 1 (Itar-Tass) — According to the command of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, above all in its Pamir direction, remains extremely disquieting, Itar-Tass learnt at the press centre of the command.

The Rovand post at one of the sections guarded by the Khorog border detachment was fired on in the evening of October 31. Shooting at the Russian border post was conducted from the Afghan territory with firearms for 25 minutes. Borderguards returned fire.

Borderguards from the Porshnev post thwarted, last night, a fording of the Pyandzh river from Afghanistan to Tajikistan by a group of rebels at another section of the Khorog border detachment. Following warning shots which were ignored by gunmen, borderguards opened fire to hit.

One rebel was killed, and the rest returned to the Afghan coast. There were no casualties among Russian borderguards.

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Meets UN Tajikistan Mediator

LD0111075495 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 1300 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] received yesterday Darko Silovic, director of the observers' mission and special envoy of the UN secretary general in Tajikistan. They held an exchange of views with the aim of determining the main positions in the settlement of the inter-Tajik dialogue, in which, Mr,Silovic said Turkmenistan is playing a more and more active role. [passage omitted]

Delegation Holds Working Consultations in Washington

LD0111095695 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0650 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Working consultations have been held at the U.S State Department in Washington. On the Turkmen side the consultations were attended by Boris Shikhmuradov, a special envoy of Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy, by a deputy chairman of the cabinet of ministers, and by Turkmenistan's foreign minister. The U.S. side was represented by chief coordinator developing cooperation with newly independent states J. Collins. [passage omitted]

In this context, the representative of the U.S. Administration noted that Michael Cotter, the new U.S. ambassador, who is due to arrive in the Turkmen capital in the near future, is coming with a concrete program and the relevant instructions to ensure a level of bilateral relations which will meet the long-term interests of both states. [passage omitted]

James Collins emphasized that the speech by President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy at the session to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN General Assembly is clear evidence of the Turkmen leadership's firm intention to create the conditions for the country's forward independent development.

During their talks in New York, Saparmurad Turkmenbashy and James Collins discussed a program of bilateral activities. It is proposed, inter alia, to create a Turkmen-U.S. business council responsible for helping implement bilateral projects, especially in the private sector. A number of large U.S. companies have already expressed their wish to participate in the council's work. The U.S. side has said it is interested in holding international conferences in Washington, Ashgabat, and a number of other capitals during which the political aspects of large pipelines and projects to supply Turkmen fuel to world markets would be discussed. Furthermore, an interest is being expressed in joining efforts to attract international investments in Turkmenistan's agricultural sector, to increase its efficiency.

The proposals concerning cooperation in the field of law and joint efforts in fighting antisocial tendencies were also discussed.

The results of the short but very busy visit to New York by President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan were highly regarded here in the United States. During the visit, the prospects for operating in Turkmenistan for such large U.S. corporations as Unocal, Exxon, United Technologies, Boeing, and others were consolidated. The main conclusion to be drawn from the results of the bilateral consultations in Washington is that there was a high level of mutual understanding. Account was taken of the realities which face the countries and these were recognized, the sides were committed to long-term, equal, and mutually beneficial partnership in all spheres. To this end, the working consultations on this matter will continue in Ashgabat until the end of the year during the visits to the Turkmen capital by high-ranking U.S. delegations.

Slovak Prime Minister Meciar Arrives

LD0111102195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 1 Nov 95

[By Anna Kurbanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHKHABAD, November 1 (Itar-Tass) — Slovakian Premier Vladimir Meciar began his official visit to Turkmenia on Wednesday.

Meciar was scheduled to meet Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov and the vice-premiers.

According to Turkmen Foreign Ministry officials, the visit is expected to result in signing three interstate agreements: on preventing dual taxation, on aerial communication and on travelling of persons with diplomatic and official passports without visas.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Greets World Bank President

LD0111085195 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan received the World Bank President James Wolfensohn, today. Greeting the high-ranking guest on Uzbek soil, President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan emphasized that Mr, James Wolfensohn's visit to our country is considered a sign of the World Bank's growing interest in the economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

The leader of the country stressed that the development of foreign economic ties will allow Uzbekistan, which possesses enormous natural and scientific potential and strong export opportunities, to occupy a well-deserved place in the world community. [passage omitted]

The most favorable conditions and a reliable legal base have been created in the republic. A department for foreign economic relations has been created under the Cabinet of Ministers. Uzbekistan intends to cooperate with the World Bank in developing the spheres of communications and infrastructure and in expanding export opportunities.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn, in turn, said that he attaches great importance to his visit to our country, because Uzbekistan can be a worthy and reliable partner for any foreign state. He emphasized that this visit will promote further cooperation between the World Bank and Uzbekistan.

Deputy Prime Ministers Utkur Sultanov and Bakhtiar Hamidov, and Parvez Hasan, the World Bank's representative for Central Asia, took part in the meeting.

Karimov on World Bank Aid for Reforms

LD3110221595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1938 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, October 31 (Itar-Tass) - The World Bank is expected to grant over half a billion U.S. dollars to support reforms in Uzbekistan, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said during a joint press conference with World Bank President James Wolfensohn, who is currently on a visit to the Central Asian republic.

The Uzbek leader said that 10 joint projects are being preparing for the implementation with the World Bank. At present, work is in progress in four main directions. They include a structural reorganisation of the economy, the development of agriculture sector, a solution to ecological problems and the development of the social sector.

Karimov said that the three of the projects, involving an expenditure of over 150 million dollars, have already been implemented.

According to the World Bank president, the choice has fallen on Uzbekistan not just by chance, but because there are positive improvements in the economy, the programme to build the market economy is being implemented and a strong legal taxation system has been established. All this is highly appreciated in the World Bank and it is ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan, he said.

The World Bank president's continue his stay in Uzbekistan. He is expected to leave for Paris on Thursday, November 2.

President Karimov Receives PRC Delegation

LD3110100295 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 31 Oct 95 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 October, Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov received a delegation headed by Hu Jintao, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee.

During the discussion, there was an exchange of views on issues concerning the development of cooperation between the two states.

B. Gulomov, state counsellor to the president of Uzbekistan, Deputy Prime Minister Otkir Sultanov, and Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov took part in the reception.

Guan Henguan, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Uzbekistan attended the reception.

Armenia

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Health Minister

NC3110065995 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Prime Minister Grand Bagratyan today received Iranian Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi. Noting with satisfaction the steady development of bilateral ties, the two sides examined the prospects for broadening and deepening cooperation in the area of health.

At the suggestion of the Armenian prime minister, the possibility of reaching agreements on mutual recognition of medical diplomas, the production of drugs and medical equipment, higher medical training, and other issues will be studied.

Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Hamid Reza Negar-Esfahani, Armenian Health Minister Ara Babloyan, the adviser to the Armenian prime minister, Vardan Sargisyan, the head of the Armenian Government's Foreign Relations Department, Vasili Ghazaryan, and other officials attended the meeting.

Spokesman Denies Turkish Press Report on PKK Camps

NC3110215095 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its 21 October issue, Istanbul's JAMANAK [TIME, Armenian-language paper] has reprinted an article from ZAMAN entitled "The Workers' Party of Kurdistan [PKK] Will Move Its Camps to Armenia."

Such articles are nothing new, however the ZAMAN correspondent has tried to flavor the report with reliable facts and details. It mentions the exact place of the PKK headquarters: northwest of Sevan. According to the description in the paper, the camp is surrounded by a 2-meter high barbed-wire fence with Armenia's emblem displayed on it, and has two rocket launchers and four buildings, and so on.

ARMENPRES correspondent requested Aram Safaryan, Foreign Ministry press secretary, to comment on these recurring false reports in the Turkish papers. Safaryan noted that since 1993 the Armenian officials have on numerous occasions convincingly refuted the recurrent claims published in the Turkish press on the existence of the Kurdish armed units in Armenia.

According to the press secretary, this new unfounded and provocative claim is convenient for those forces which want to obstruct possible improvement in Armenia-Turkish relations. Added Safaryan, more than 30 Turkish reporters who visited Armenia in the last four years had the opportunity to personally confirm and expose the false claims.

Azerbaijan

Oil Chief Urges Caspian Cooperation With Iran

MM3110155395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Cooperation in the Caspian Expanding" — from the "Departmental Supplement-Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijan has reaffirmed its invitation to Iran to take part in the exploration of the Caspian Sea's "Shakh-Deniz" oil and gas field.

Natik Aliyev, leader of the Azerbaijani State Oil Company "SOKAR," who is visiting Tehran, advocated expanding bilateral cooperation in the oil sphere during a meeting with Iranian Petroleum Minister Qolam Reza Aqazadeh-Khoi. Aliyev and Aqazadeh-Khoi discussed the question of Iranian electricity shipments to Nakhichevan in exchange for Azerbaijani petroleum products.

Experts Claim Baku Subway Deaths Caused by Nerve Gas

LD3110195695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 31 (Interfax) — The massive death of people in the Baku subway was caused by nerve gas, a group of experts of the Azerbaijani Health Care Ministry established after examining all the dead bodies of the tragedy's victims.

About 300 people died in the Baku subway last Saturday when a train caught fire between stations.

The group's chief expert Rafik Yusifli told Interfax that the preliminary results of the investigation would be submitted to the Azerbaijani Prosecutor's Office and might be made known at a news conference on November 1. However, he declined to elaborate on the early results of the investigation saying that they are confidential.

Yusifli dismissed as "unprofessional and absolutely unfounded" the earlier claims that the death of passengers had been caused by fumes from melted plastic.

Criminal Expert Discusses Metro Deaths

NC0111075395 Baku TURAN in English 1110 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/31.10.95/TURAN—"The accident in Baku's underground October 28 could not arise due to technical reasons or a fire", the specialist in criminalistics speaking on condition of anonymity told TURAN.

He said the war gas, which together with molecules of oxygen cause high-temperature fire and the explosion able to fuse even super-strong steel, was used in Baku's underground.

"Such chemicals are not dangerous when closed, but once the ampule is broken the fire starts. Such exploding ampules and war gases are used by the special services in some foreign countries", he said. Such war gases are used in the third countries, since the special services there are to weak and there are not so many chances to prove that.

The chief of service for underground control acknowledged the same suppositions on Azerbaijani television yesterday. He assured the trains are made from fireproof materials and cannot catch ordinary fire, the temperature of which is 200-200 grades centigrade. "The temperature at 1,700 grades is necessary to fuse super-strong steel. The examination of the trains showed that there are holes on the floor of one of the carriages of the train. It means that the fire went through the double floor and the asbestos laying, which prevents from fire", he said. The same source expressed the opinion that not an ordinary explosion, but the chemical composition causing high temperature and metal fusing has been used in the underground. "The suffocation of many passengers also proved the use of this war gas", the same source said.

The version on use of war gas was backed up by the physicians of one of Baku's hospital too. It was difficult to breath in the ward where the suffered persons were brought and we had to open all windows not to suffocated ourselves, they said.

The administration of underground excludes any technical reasons, because the burnt carriages have been put into operation October 1 after the repair on Kharkov's carriage-building plant.

The official mass media started discussion of the version on diversion in the underground yesterday when the state commission presented the first results of the expertise and examination of the witnesses. Yesterday during the meeting with the U.S. Ambassador Kauzlarich, President Aliyev also did not exclude the possibility of diversion in the underground.

Aliyev Discusses Tragedy With U.S. Envoy

LD3110205395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to preliminary data, the fire that broke out in Baku's subway on Saturday had been caused by technical mishaps; however it is believed that the tragedy may have been a result of sabotage. President Geydar Aliyev said so on Monday during his meeting with the American Ambassador Richard Kozlaric.

He conceded that the tragedy in Baku's subway was a "heavy blow" to Azerbaijan. Detailed investigations into what prompted it are carried out on the president's instructions by a special governmental commission. Investigators will clarify everything; all the possible versions are being considered, Aliyev said.

According to the president, the state will continue to give aid to the families of those who died or got injured in the fire. Those who were injured are undergoing medical treatment, Aliyev said.

Saturday's blaze was not the first such occurrence in Baku's subway, Aliyev noted. Last year there was an explosion, which, as investigations revealed later, was a result of a terrorist act. The culprits were found, Aliyev said. Their guilt has been proved, and soon they will stand trial. Both internal and external forces were involved in staging terrotist acts in Azerbaijan, he noted.

Nevertheless the president said he is confident that, grave as the tragedy was, it will not prevent Azerbaijan from carrying out its plans. In this connection he referred to the parliamentary elections scheduled for November 12 and to the adoption of a new constitution - "the first constitution of independent Azerbaijan." When the draft constitution was published, organizations and individuals sent about 15 hundred proposals with a view to improving it.

The Constitutional Commission held a session on Monday, Aliyev said. When it sums up the results of nationwide debates on the draft constitution, the final version will be published by the press once again with suggestions taken into account, he explained.

Aliyev thanked the American people and their government for their aid and support granted to Azerbaijan in adversity. This makes it possible to hope that Azerbaijani-American relations will further develop, he said.

The American ambassador handed to Aliyev a letter from President Bill Clinton with the expression of condolences. The U.S. government, he said, decided to allocate $25,000 in aid to those who suffered in the tragedy.

The Azeri National Security Minister Namig Abbasov has not confirmed media reports that the fire in the Baku metro on Saturday was caused by an explosion.

"If there had been an explosion, the victims would have been injured differently," the minister told Interfax Tuesday. Besides, no fragments of an explosive device have been discovered in the burnt-out train.

Abbasov did not rule out the possibility of an act of sabotage in general, but said that the fire began under the train. At that time sounds resembling blasts were heard under the carriage but experts believe they were caused by components of the power system, in particular fuses.

The minister assumed that metro representatives talk of a possible explosion in an attempt to evade responsibility.

He spoke against making hasty conclusions before the end of the official investigation and the train manufacturer's mission - the Mytishchi engineering works from Russia.

Abbasov said that after the death of one passenger in hospital the number of victims of the tragedy reached 287 people, most of whom died of suffocation.

Passengers Evacuated as New Metro Fire Breaks Out

NC3110141495 Baku TURAN in English 1701 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 9) TURAN [dateline as received]—The trouble accident in Baku's underground could be prevented if some measures were taken in time. Today at 8.50 there was a fire in the train of Baku's metro following the route "Baki Soveti - Neftchilyar". The fire began in the last car of the train, when the train was leaving "Ulduz" station, the Chief of Metro Police Department, Tair Kyazimov, told TURAN. The train was stopped, returned back to "Ulduz" station and the passengers were evacuated. By that time the fire enveloped the neighbouring car. The fire was stopped but technical services continued working to open the tracks.

"That was a technical disrepair, so one should not think that is was the act of terrorism", Tair Kayzimov says. Metro Management reported that was disrepair of electrical devices made in 1967 due to their shabbiness.

A leader of Baku's metro told TURAN that the trouble accident which took place in metro on October 28, 1995 was not the result of irresponsibility of the employees of the underground. The leaders of the underground appealed more than once to the government to allocate additional resources for carrying out technical repair in the underground but their demands were satisfied only partially.

By 11 a.m. metro traffic on the route "Baki Soveti - Neftchilyar" has not been totally suspended and trains followed until "Narimanov" station.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Says Situation 'Calmed Down'

AU3110194995 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 30 Oct 95 pp 174-176

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Joerg R. Mettke in Tbilisi; date not given: "Genocide in Our Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mettke] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, you canceled your trip to New York at the last minute. Is the situation in Georgia — the political and your own situation — so unstable that you cannot even leave the country for a short time?

[Shevardnadze] The situation in Georgia has calmed down tangibly. However, there are still forces that are fighting against the economic and democratic improvement of our country.

[Mettke] What forces?

[Shevardnadze] Internal and external forces who are ready for terrorist activities at any time. We know those who carry them out, but we do not know the masterminds. So long as they remain in the dark, it is not advisable, particularly before elections, to leave the country.

[Mettke] Polls have revealed a clear lead for you and your Union of Georgia's Citizens in the 5 November elections.

[Shevardnadze] Our victory is by no means a foregone conclusion. We must still make considerable efforts to win a stable parliamentary majority.

[Mettke] The new Georgian constitution strengthens the power of the state president unilaterally. Do you no longer think much of parliamentary democracy, just like your counterpart Yeltsin?

[Shevardnadze] I do not agree with your assessment of our constitution. Quite the contrary: It is a very interesting attempt to link a strong presidential power with an influential parliament.

[Mettke] Yet you insisted on a right of veto for you.

[Shevardnadze] This will only become effective if my movement wins a majority in parliament. The new constitution virtually forces us to cooperate. I cannot dissolve parliament, for example. It is also difficult to oust the president during his term of office. This is only possible if he commits a crime.

[Mettke] A few days ago, you opened a scientific center in Stalin's home town of Gori, designed to investigate the personal qualities and the work of the dictator. Do you think that you can learn something from your compatriot?

[Shevardnadze] Do you believe that Stalin was a dictator?

[Mettke] Do you not agree?

[Shevardnadze] My political work shows what I think of Stalin. The scientific discussion of the phenomenon Stalin is legitimate and necessary — all the more so because the inhabitants of Gori want it and are financing it. People are entitled to carry out research.

[Mettke] Is it correct that you can see positive sides in Stalin?

[Shevardnadze] There are no absolutely dark figures in history.

[Mettke] A Georgian military doctrine is currently under preparation. Will it lead your country to military neutrality, to a new military bloc of the CIS states — or to NATO in the foreseeable future.

[Shevardnadze, laughing] The basis of our defense doctrine is nuclear weapons.

[Mettke] This is a macabre joke.

[Shevardnadze] It is the truth. Our country must have an army that is able to protect our independence in the event of a conflict. Moreover, as a CIS member, Georgia also profits from the agreements of this community of states on collective security. We do not produce any weapons, and NATO cannot and should not help us. I vigorously reject military blocs and pacts.

[Mettke] Your military officials dream of new military measures against the separatist Abkhaz people. Another theater of war in the Caucasus?

[Shevardnadze] Our military officials will do what the political leadership tells them to do. We do not want to enforce a decision with military means. However, if the endless negotiations do not yield any results, and if the separation should become a reality — we will never accept that.

[Mettke] Has your public assessment of Boris Yeltsin's bloody operation in Chechnya always been so mild because you intend to ensure Georgia's territorial unity with similar instruments?

[Shevardnadze] You had better look at the crimes against humanity committed by the separatists. We are not the only ones who speak of ethnic cleansing and genocide in our country. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also sees things in the same way. Our situation can by no means be compared with events in Chechnya. Even there, I have always condemned bloodshed. However, I respect Russia's efforts to maintain its territorial integrity. No other state would act differently.

[Mettke] In the past few weeks, numerous supporters of your strongest rival Ioseliani, who are organized in paramilitary groups, have been arrested. What led to the conflict between you and Ioseliani, who asked you to assume a political office in Georgia after the fall of your predecessor Gamsakhurdia?

[Shevardnadze] Many, including the entire intelligentsia, have called for my return. It is true that Ioseliani was particularly active. However, this does not give him and his supporters the right to turn their organization into a reservoir for robbers, murderers, and terrorists. I would not have spared my blood brother if he had become the leader of a criminal gang.

[Mettke] You survived several attacks in the past few years, most recently in August 1995. Is the Russian secret service trying to kill you? Or do you have a different suspicion?

[Shevardnadze] I do not know the masterminds. I only know who has saved me so far: God.

[Mettke] Your former state security chief Giorgadze, whom you accuse of having carried out the terrorist act, is granting interviews in Russia without being molested. Do you still believe in his speedy extradition?

[Shevardnadze] If he is not extradited, another professional terrorist will continue to be at large in Russia. However, this is not really in Russia's interests.

[Mettke] You have occasionally admitted that you committed "sins" in your former political life as interior minister and communist party leader in Georgia. Which was the biggest sin?

[Shevardnadze] The worst was that I spent the best years of my life zealously serving a regime that was not worth it.

[Mettke] Georgia's economy is in ruins. The average wages are 10 to 15 German marks. As one of the liquidators of the USSR, did you foresee the decline of your home country to the level of a developing country?

[Shevardnadze] No. Georgia is the only country that has suffered such a decline. It is the fault of the leaders who came to power immediately after the country achieved its independence. They are responsible for two civil wars. We were not yet ready for sovereignty. If I had had my way, this process would have taken place in several stages.

[Mettke] In approximately one year, oil from Azerbajan is to flow to the Black Sea besides a Russian pipeline on the so-called Georgian route. What control rights did you have to grant to Moscow?

[Shevardnadze] Today such decisions are made by international syndicates with multinational participation. Russia did not exert any pressure.

[Mettke] Do you expect an economic upswing for Georgia from the oil transit?

[Shevardnadze] If the oil should really flow, Georgia stands good opportunities of becoming a trading place for goods from central Asia and Europe. Georgia is small, but it provides access to numerous regions.

[Mettke] Are you satisfied with German commitment in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] There is still room for improvement. But we are very grateful to the Germans: The situation would be much worse without their humanitarian aid.

[Mettke] Do you still maintain contact with your former boss Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Shevardnadze] We occasionally talk on the telephone with each other. I received a very touching letter from him only recently, after the attack.

[Mettke] What about Hans-Dietrich Genscher?

[Shevardnadze] We are in constant contact.

Shevardnadze Questions Need for Spy Networks

LD3110194795 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The day's main event was Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the Defense Ministry. [passage omitted] We present to you an interesting excerpt from his speech there.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] No state needs to develop a network of agents, not a single state. It is not by mere chance that I am saying this? Why does Russia need to have its agents in the Georgian Armed Forces? What for? What do we have to hide from Russia? We have its tanks, its firearms, and its ammunition. We are living and existing on what it is giving us.

After all, does Russia have anyone more loyal than Nadibaidze — or even myself? You can consider me their agent. This is what Gamsakhurdia used to call me. We have nothing to hide. Likewise, we have nothing to hide from other countries we are cooperating and having business with.

Material obtained through a network of agents is very bad because they all see things differently. They see the authorities and the state differently. Otherwise, they would not be agents. They know what they need to invent; for example, that Shevardnadze has started a reign of terror. They need to invent similar things about Nadibaidze, Shevardnadze, Shashiashvili, Mamaladze, and everyone else.

When Giorgadze's fire resistant safes were opened, a list of 1,500 people was found. These are agents who have been in the service of a certain state. I would like Avtandil Ioseliani to process all these lists and follow up with the appropriate steps.

I am not going to say now how many parties and leaders are there. However, the leader of one society, who is second on the list, has been an agent for 15 years, according to the documents recovered. This society represents one of the most so-called patriotic movements. Please do not ask me to give you the name of the person or the movement. If this person has any dignity, he or she will withdraw their nomination. Otherwise, if he gets into parliament — if they clear the 5 percent threshold, which I doubt — then I will name that person.

I am saying this for everyone to know: there are 1,500 people on these lists, but there are probably another 2,500 people that we do not know about. They should see Avtandil Ioseliani and others of their own accord. Anything can happen in life. We used to live under a regime where it was hard to refuse an invitation to cooperate. No one is a saint, and one little error was enough for this cooperation to start. We are even telling people who commit crimes today to report it. Say how much money you have given to Remi Vashakidze, what forced you to do it, and we will not hold you accountable. Is that right, Batono Jamlet [Babilashvili, prosecutor general]?

[Babilashvili] Indeed!

[Shevardnadze] The republic's prosecutor general has announced it. So what is so wrong with being an agent? We will not make it public, it will be confidential. Please come forward and say: Yes, I have been in this network, in this system, but from now on I will serve you alone.

When I talk about vigilance, I mean that we should all know that, above all, we are in the service of our country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze: Georgians Must Be Ready To Fight For Abkhazia

LD0111100895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0500 GMT 1 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday the leadership of the republic would make every effort to resolve the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict by peaceful means but when these possibilities were exhausted, I quote, "we will have to be prepared to restore our territorial integrity by force of arms."

I remind you that was an RIA news report.

Abkhaz Leader Ardzinba on Russian Mediatory Role

LD0111103795 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Oct 95

[Correspondent Aleksandr Pokhlad report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] For wholly understandable reasons, Russia is playing the main role of mediator in finding a political settlement to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Of course, Tbilisi and Sukhumi have different views of Russia's role in this process. The leader of the republic, Vladislav Ardzinba, told us the view of the Abkhaz leadership:

[Begin Ardzinba recording] It is a matter of Georgia trying to use Russia in its adventurist schemes. We firmly oppose this. It is Russia that can be a real mediator in settling this conflict and only Russia can be a guarantor of any agreements which might be reached between Abkhazia and Georgia. [end recording]

Abkhazia remains as before a crisis zone. The situation is especially acute on the border with Georgia, as tens of thousands of Georgians who became refugees are trying to return to their homes, many of which have been destroyed. Memories of the dead are fresh among both peoples. Let me remind you that the war claimed approximately 10,000 lives. You won't find many families in Abkhazia who haven't lost at least one relative. [passage omitted]

Abkhaz Premier on Sukhumi Blockade, Russia Talks

LD3110195395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Oct 31 (Interfax) - Abkhazian Prime Minister Gennadiy Gagulia speaking on Tuesday announced that Russian coast guards have partially lifted the blockade of Sukhumi port imposed early last week and the question was now being discussed on allowing Abkhaz ships to sail from the port.

Our correspondent says a Turkish tanker carrying gasoline arrived in Sukhumi on Monday.

In the meantime, Russia has denied allegations of blocking the Sukhumi port saying Russian coast guards imposed a ban on three ships sailing from Sukhumi to Turkey because of uncertainty about their identity.

Gagulia did not elaborate on how exactly Russia and Abkhazia had agreed to resolve the problem which derailed the two rounds of Georgian-Abkhaz peace talks scheduled in Moscow for October 24 and 31.

The new round of talks is to be held on November 2 and an Abkhaz official announced on Tuesday Sukhumi was ready to take part.

On the resumption of railway shipments from Russia to Georgia and Armenian via Abkhaz territory, Gagulia said these would reopen in the next three or four months.

He said members of a Russian-Abkhaz working group would meet on Monday to discuss the issue as provided by a protocol of October 20.

Gagulia said Russia was committed to allocating about 100 billion rubles to fund the cost of preliminary work.

Abkhaz army units and Russian paratroopers deployed in Abkhazia are expected to protect the vital railway route.

Russians Reportedly Helped Giorgadze To Flee

LD3110210195 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Georgian 1555 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] The newspaper DRONI, which is published in Tbilisi, has reported, quoting reliable sources, that the Russian military helped Igor Giorgadze, the former chief of the Georgian Security Service, to flee Georgia. Once he felt that he was being watched, Igor Giorgadze went with his bodyguards to the headquarters of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus. He asked the bodyguards to wait outside and went into the building. He was then taken through the back door and driven to the Vaziani airfield, from where he flew to Moscow in the personal plane of Fedor Reut, commander of the Russian Group of Forces in the Transcaucasus.

Minister on Army Development, Cooperation With Russia

AU0111114195 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 24 Oct 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "A Part of the Weapons Earmarked for Georgia Has Been Temporarily Transferred to the Russian Army"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 17 October, Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze held a news conference.

According to BGI, Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Vardiko informed the journalists that the Georgian Army was now totally being built up to prescribed strength on the basis of conscription. According to him, structural reorganization in the Georgian Army had begun. Six thousand recruits had been called up in the spring and 5,700 in the fall. This amounted to 90 percent of the planned strength level, something which had not occurred during the Soviet period. According to information supplied by the defense minister, there are currently 49,600 [figure as published] men serving in the Georgian Army. Army infantry, motorized rifle brigades, surface-to-air missile subunits, and air defense units have been formed. All problems connected with Georgia's Air Forces have apparently been resolved; there is the necessary number of aircraft and professional pilots are undergoing training. "One can now say that Georgia has an army that can accomplish the tasks set by the head of state," said the minister. As for the navy, he reassured the journalists by saying: "Along with Russia, through our joint efforts, we will also form a navy."

Georgia's friendly disposition toward the Russian Army was once more confirmed at the news conference. The defense minister assumes personal responsibility for the protection of Russian servicemen. Moreover, he promised that he would not allow any terrorist acts to be committed against Russians. Even bigger and more welcoming facts of friendly relations with the Russians were revealed at the news conference. "A part of the quota of weapons and heavy equipment stipulated in international documents as being earmarked for Georgia has been temporarily given to Russian formations stationed in Georgia; the remainder is sufficient to ensure the combat effectiveness of the Georgian Army," said the minister and added that equipment was being ordered from Russian factories.

Asked why the Army was not taking concrete steps to recover Abkhazia, Batoni Vardiko replied that "the Ministry of Defense is in contact with the Russian peacekeeping forces. There are many problems, but they are being resolved. As regards specific dates, I cannot say anything on this score." [passage omitted]

Estonia

Defense Minister Supports Integration With West

*LD3010161495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1405 GMT 30 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Oct 30 (Interfax) — Integration in the West is the only effective way to ensure Estonia's foreign policy goals and security, Estonian Defense Minister Andrus Oovel said in Tallinn Monday.

Speaking at the celebration of the 73th anniversary of the republic's border guards and the fifth anniversary of their restoration, he underlined that NATO is the only institution capable of effectively guaranteeing security. Estonia's participation in the Partnership for Peace program enables its defense forces to cooperate with their NATO colleagues. Every bilateral agreement with NATO member-states brings us closer to full membership in this institution, he added.

Estonia's forces are ready to take part in U.N. and OSCE peacekeeping operations, Oovel emphasized. The republic has filed its application to participate in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia within the Northern Brigade being created.

President Meri Leaves Mexico for U.S.

*WS0111103695 Tallinn ETA in English
1539 GMT 31 Oct 95*

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri concluded his state visit to Mexico on Monday and proceeded to Seattle, continuing his working visit to the USA.

The last two days of his visit to Mexico President Meri spent at Yucatan Peninsula, where he visited cultural sights of Maya culture and had talks with well-known Mexican historians and archaeologists.

On Monday afternoon President Meri, accompanied by an Estonian business delegation, proceeded to Seattle, to continue his working visit to the USA. President's press service said that the President is to visit Washington State University, where he is to deliver a lecture.

Wednesday morning Meri is to visit Boeing plane plants and Microsoft software company.

President Meri and the delegation accompanying him will depart for Estonia on Thursday and reach Tallinn Friday.

Latvia

Oil Search Deal Signed With U.S., Swedish Companies

*LD3110094395 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
0900 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] State Minister for Power Juris Ozolins and Environment and Regional Development Minister Juris Iesalnieks have just signed an agreement in the government building, granting the U.S. company Amoco and the Swedish firm OPAB a licence to carry out test drilling for oil in the Baltic Sea. The area is disputed by Latvia and Lithuania, so the agreement will not come into force until a border dispute has been settled. Lithuania will ask Latvia to invite a mediator from a third country to help resolve the issue.

Gailis Explains Oil Exploration Agreement

*LD3110131995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1000 GMT 31 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A license agreement with the U.S. company Amoco and the Swedish firm OPAB on possible oil extraction in the Baltic Sea was signed at the Cabinet of Ministers an hour ago. The agreement will give these companies the right to carry out test drillings in the possible oilfields located by geologists in the Baltic Sea. Talks between Latvia and the two foreign companies have been going on for three years now. The agreement with Amoco and OPAB also concerns oilfields on the territory disputed by Latvia and Lithuania.

The head of government, Maris Gailis, will explain on Latvian radio the agreement signed today:

[Begin recording] [Gailis] This is a project for very many years and it involves very, very large investments which cannot be afforded by the Latvian state. Therefore, these large foreign oil companies are only some. [sentence as received] Amoco is one of them and it is currently preparing to carry out exploration according to an agreement with Sweden; and of course, this was practically the only opportunity to conclude such an agreement with this multinational American company. It should be said that the agreement has been drafted for several years and it is beneficial for the Latvian state. Of course, no one can tell at the moment whether there is oil on our shelf; but if it is there, then within 10 years we could earn perhaps a couple of hundred million dollars.

[Unidentified correspondent] And why, when they found out that the agreement would be signed, have several Lithuanian politicians become so worried?

[Gailis] [words indistinct] the oil field could reach the disputed area in the economic zone between Latvia and Lithuania. Of course, we have repeatedly discussed these matters with Lithuanian colleagues. We know how large that area is. It is practically not bigger than five miles; and it is completely clear that no drilling or exploration will be carried out in the disputed area. Therefore, if we are looking for oil or if it is done by this company on our behalf, then it will clearly be taking place in the Latvian economic zone. Of course, until a border agreement is concluded with Lithuania, we can say that we do not know precisely where our border runs. Therefore, there is a clause in the agreement which we are signing that it will come into force only after the borders of the economic zone between Lithuania and Latvia have been demarcated as the result of an agreement. [end recording]

Latvia Formally Applies To Join EU

MS3110135695 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 31 Oct 95 p 20

[Report by Christopher Lockwood: "Latvia Joins Four Eastern States on EU Waiting List"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Luxembourg — Latvia yesterday formally applied to join the European Union, the fifth eastern European country to do so, with another five likely to follow suit shortly.

When all these applicants join, along with Cyprus and Malta, who are already in the queue, the EU will have 28 members. But the date for the expansion is receding into the vague future.

The original target for bringing in the first eastern Europeans, reaffirmed as recently as last month in Poland by Chancellor Kohl, was 2000.

But because of a reluctance by the EU's governments to contemplate the radical reforms to its spending policies and institutional structures that will be required, no one in Brussels seriously expects the target to be met.

The principal difficulty remains money. The European Commission estimated last week that expanding the EU's common agricultural policy and its regional development funds to the 10 eastern European applicants would cost 30 billion pounds a year a budget increase of almost 50 per cent.

EU Accepts Latvian Application

LD3110204395 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Union's Council of Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg has officially accepted Latvia's application for admission to the European Union and passed it to the European Union Commission for further preparation of viewpoints. The council discussed this issue outside [word indistinct]. Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs expressed thanks to this council and to the member states of the European Union for its promptness and support in accepting Latvia's application for admission.

Swedish Defense Minister Arrives To Study Army

LD0111112695 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Swedish Defense Minister Thage Peterson has arrived in Latvia on a two-day visit to study the situation in the national Armed Forces. Half an hour ago, he met with Saeima [parliament] Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs. Talks about the political situation have also been scheduled with Maris Gailis, prime minister and [acting] defense minister. The guest will also visit the Baltic peacekeeping battalion's [Baltbat] and the mobile infantry brigade's training center at Adazi. The Swedish defense minister will meet with the command of the national armed forces and the Baltbat to discuss bilateral cooperation in civil defense and within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

Deputies Call For Formation of New Government

LD3110202795 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Eight deputies of the sixth Saeima are calling on State President Guntis Ulmanis and the Saeima to agree on the formation of a national government to defend the interests of the Latvian [word indistinct] population. [passage omitted]

The deputies also state that (?they intend) to form a support group for agriculture in the Saeima, and call on all those deputies who understand the problems of farmers to join it, regardless of their adherence to parties and factions.

Oskars Grigs, a spokesman for the deputies expressed the (?view) that the national government could be formed by Maris Grinblats, the candidate for the premiership proposed by the National Bloc, and could encompass representatives of those factions who intend to defend (?farmers') interests. The Latvian Way and the Socialist Party factions do not have such representatives in the Saeima.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.